

Christopher meets Arafat in 'memorable visit' to Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (USIA) — "It's very memorable to be here in Gaza, and see the chairman setting up his headquarters here," said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during a press availability after his Thursday meeting with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Following is a transcript of the press availability:

Chairman Arafat: Your Excellency, first of all I would like to say to you thank you very much for your coming here and to visit us in the Gaza Strip. You have done the first visit to Jericho, and now to Gaza. And I have to thank His Excellency President Clinton for what he is doing and offering to push for the peace process by all means. We can't forget your efforts. Your Excellency, from the beginning till we had achieved what we had achieved. Again, I have to thank you from my heart, by the name of our cabinet, by the name of our masses, by the name of our people. Still, if we have to speak frankly, still we are facing some troubles there. What had happened in Erez, the isolation of Jerusalem, the troubles which we are facing in Hebron, but we are sure with your help, Your Excellency, with His Excellency President Clinton's help and your government's help we'll be able to overcome all the obstacles and to push forward so that there will be honest and accurate implementation to what had been agreed upon and signed.

We are still facing some troubles in the economic field, because still the promises which we had received from the donors have not been implemented yet. I am sure that you will continue your support and your help fill our people can be able to touch the fruits of the peace. Specially, we are facing a very dramatic economic situation, but I am sure that you are (...) inaudible (...) to what I had mentioned to His Excellency President Clinton in the White House in your presence. Your Excellency, that we had found a real friend in the White House, President Clinton, and we are sure that he will help us with all his efforts. We can't forget his appeal, and after the appeal we had the meeting of the donors. But we are still in need of his help to carry on and facing all this dramatic situation, specially all our infrastructure had been completely destroyed and we have to start from our hearts and I have to repeat, again, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Secretary Christopher: Mr. Chairman, of course it's very memorable to be here in Gaza, and see the chairman setting up his headquarters here. I congratulated him on his return here and taking the very important step of being here in Gaza. The chairman outlined to me the economic problems that they are facing here, and I have a very appreciation of them. Clearly, the Palestinians still face a very difficult task here. It will not be easy for them, but I urge them to work through it with determination.

We had a very sober and serious discussion of the needs for documentation for the donor community. We talked about the donors who are prepared to make available funds, but require,

according to their procedures, documentation, and we are very anxious to try to help understand the need for that documentation. With me today is under secretary of state for economic affairs, Joan Spero. She has been working closely with the World Bank and other parts of the donor community to help make the funds available and she will be staying on after I leave to meet with the chairman and with his colleagues to try to assist in this process. One of the points that I made with the chairman was that we really need help from them in order to try to help them with the donor community.

We discussed a number of other important aspects of the new relationship here. We discussed the early empowerment talks that are taking place in Cairo that Prime Minister Rabin talked to me about last night, and I think the Israelis are anxious to go forward with that. We had a broad-ranging talk about a number of issues that face the chairman and his colleagues as they make this historic transformation. I told him, and I think he understands and agrees, that the United States feels a special responsibility to try to assist them as reflected by the early funds that we made available for their police, and as reflected by the AID project that has been started for housing in this area.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it was a pleasure to be here and now, of course, I will be glad along with you, to respond to questions that you might have.

Question: Mr. Secretary, can you share with us your feelings in coming to Gaza for the first time as secretary of state and on such a memorable occasion?

Secretary Christopher: Well, as I said, I found it very memorable to see the transformation symbolised by Chairman Arafat being here in Gaza, beginning to set up his headquarters, beginning to put together the group that will help him administer this area. I think no one can approach this kind of a moment without a realization as to how the landscape is changing here, and how much the chairman has done to make these changes; how many years he's worked for this, and a sense of the realization of this long effort on the part of the Palestinians who returned to this area. So I think it would be certainly almost inhuman not to have a sense of great excitement about being here and seeing this realised. But that is joined, I must say, with an appreciation — a very sober appreciation — of the difficult problems that are faced here, and the need for the international community to assist in resolving those problems.

I assured the chairman, and I want to assure all who are here, that the international community, the United States, Israel, all those who are involved, have a large stake in the success of this enterprise. Certainly I, for the United States, and my colleagues, will do all we can to ensure that this difficult project, this very difficult project, will turn out to be a success.

Q: How long do you expect it to take before the economic situation starts to improve and donors begin to send their funds?

Mr. Christopher: I think that depends upon the degree



Warren Christopher

of cooperation that is worked out between the donor community and the Palestinian authority here on the scene. We are going to do everything we can to expedite that, because it's clear that this is a time-urgent situation. But it's going to take the cooperation of both sides which we will try to encourage.

Q: (in Arabic) President Arafat, what is your opinion of the American role in the negotiations and American economic assistance?

Mr. Arafat: (in Arabic)... Yes, we discussed that subject in detail and we were promised by Secretary Christopher to support us with the donor community and the World Bank so that what we were promised could be implemented. Likewise, as you know we are telling the secretary the difficulties we are facing and especially in assuming authority over the areas which we are supposed to assume in the West Bank as quickly as possible, and in discussing the elections which we are going to undertake.

Q: Mr. Chairman, could I just ask you whether you feel that you and Prime Minister Rabin see eye-to-eye on the negotiations, namely the timetable for early empowerment, IDF redeployment, and Palestinian elections? When do you think those elections will take place, and how the other phases will unfold? Is there eye-to-eye coordination between you and Mr. Rabin on the format of these talks?

Mr. Arafat: It was supposed to be imminent, because we are not starting a new negotiation now. What we are doing now is the implementation of what had been agreed upon, and including the handing over of the early empowerment, at least five areas of the empowerment which we had discussed recently in the last meeting between me and His Excellency in Paris. We are speaking about twenty-three responsibilities and empowerment. We hope that this will go smoothly, by means or other, and we were discussing this matter with His Excellency Mr. Christopher, and he promised that he will help us by all his efforts to go within this line smoothly. Concerning the elections, we are looking to have very quickly the elections here and in the whole West Bank. But before that we are in need to see the quick redeployment of the Israeli forces before the elections, because this is what we had agreed upon in the DOP, and I hope that this will start very soon — the redeployment — then directly after this the elections in the West Bank, in Gaza and in Jericho.

Q: Mr. Secretary, did you take up with Chairman Arafat some of his recent controversial statements, and can you tell us what the upshot of that was?

Mr. Christopher: No, we don't discuss his recent controversial statements.

Q: Is there a reason you didn't take it up with him?

Mr. Christopher: The only reason I didn't take it up is our time. We had a little bit more than an hour together, which we spent focusing on the economic issues which are at the heart of the matter. We expect the chairman to live up to the agreements he made at the time of the United States meetings last September and subsequent thereto, and we frequently talk to the chairman about that and will not hesitate to do so again. But today's meeting, especially with the presence of Under Secretary Spero and some of her colleagues, was primarily focused on the economic issues. I could supplement what the chairman said. We placed a very strong emphasis on the importance of the provision of adequate documentation to the donor community. I told him that my experience with them is that that was the best way to speed the flow of funds. They are very unlikely to go forward without the necessary receipts and other documentation and we had an extensive discussion of that. I say I won't hesitate to raise the other issues with him because we think that the chairman is fully committed to honouring the obligations he undertook at the time of the signing of the DOP last year.

Q: Do you think that the incident here the other day at Erez — the riot — might have been prevented had the donor community been more responsive to your people's needs?

Mr. Arafat: That is important that we have to look forward. What is behind what had happened in Erez — the very bad economic situation. You know that the Gaza Strip has arrived to the red line of starvation, and the humiliation and frustration of our workers who are facing all troubles in Erez terminal. I hope this has to be changed. And besides, we have to work hard and very quickly to find solutions for the chronic economic situation; otherwise who knows what we will face next.

Q: Mr. Chairman, do you have plans to go to Jerusalem, and is it important to you that you be the first of the leaders who are negotiating peace with Israel to visit?

Mr. Arafat: I haven't the ability to go to Jericho till now. Here His Excellency is saying that my headquarters is in Gaza; but actually my headquarters is in Jericho and in Gaza. But I haven't the ability to go to Jericho, because the safe and the free passage have not been yet finished.

Q: Sir, I asked Jerusalem. The Israelis invited King Hussein to Jerusalem. What do you think about it?

Mr. Arafat: They haven't the right to offer any invitations. It is my duty and my responsibility to offer the invitations to all my brothers and to all my friends to visit the holy city, and the holy Christian and Muslim places in the Holy city. This is the jurisdiction of the Palestinians. But I appreciate very much that King Hussein will come to visit the Holy City together with me, and this is an invitation from me to His Majesty.

Americans in Somalia at risk, officials say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Renewed clan fighting has put Americans in Somalia at risk to the point that U.S. diplomats and the Marines protecting them may have to be removed from the country, administration officials said Thursday.

"We are already bumping up against the tripwires" set for withdrawing all American personnel from Mogadishu, the capital of the east African country, Assistant Secretary of State George Moose told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The prospects for reconciliation among Somalia's warring factions are dim, fighting in Mogadishu has increased and "at any moment we may be obliged to remove our personnel," Mr. Moose said.

U.S. participation in the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia ended in March, but there are still some 20 American diplomats helping the United Nations promote political reconciliation. They are guarded by 56-member platoon of security team.

Some 400 non-official Americans are also in the country working for relief organisations, the United Nations and in other capacities. Some 3,000 sailors and Marines are stationed offshore as part of an amphibious readiness group that would be responsible for evacuating Americans in an emergency.

Charles Freeman, the Pentagon's assistant secretary for international security affairs, told the panel that since U.S. forces left, the U.N. troops have not been aggressive in confronting the armed Soma-

li clans.

"Technical," Somalis riding trucks mounted with machine guns, are once again commonplace on the streets of Mogadishu and U.S. mission members and the 18,000 U.N. troops are "increasingly in danger," he said.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said in a report to the Security Council Wednesday that clan fighting in Mogadishu has prevented the U.N. mission from making a contribution sufficient "to justify its present size and cost."

"It may be feasible to commence a reduction in the level of troops," he said.

Inter-clan combat took place in the neighbourhood around the U.S. mission in late June, with stray small arms rounds hitting the compound. Earlier this week a U.N. convoy was attacked, and two Malaysian peacekeepers were killed.

Colonel James Pardew, vice director of current intelligence in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said both U.S. and U.N. personnel are targets for attack "if the clans perceive that either is interfering in their objectives."

With "Americans who are dangerously at risk... why are we not out of there immediately," Sen. Dirk Kempthorne asked.

Mr. Moose said efforts to replace the Marines had been slowed when the deteriorating security situation made it impossible to train Somali police for that duty. He said the State Department was talking to international security companies about guarding the U.S. mission.

Islam and Muslims in U.S. are safe and sound, scholar says

WASHINGTON (USA) — Whenever Arabs and Muslims allow movies and politics to strongly influence their opinion of the American people, they are wrong, according to an Algerian scholar who says he found that "Islam and Muslims in the United States are safe and sound."

"I discovered that the American society is different than the one we see in American movies," said Dr. Abdul Razak Gassoum, professor and director of the National Institute of Islamic Studies at the University of Algiers. At the conclusion of his first visit to the United States, Dr. Gassoum said, "I also found that the Americans are, to a large extent, a very religious people."

Dr. Gassoum was on a one-month visit to the United States (June 27 to July 22) along with a group of Islamic scholars from Morocco, Tunisia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan and the West Bank.

The purpose of their visit, sponsored by the International Visitors Programme of the United States Information Agency, was to observe the role that religions have played in the culture and society of the United States.

The American society has many positive characteristics of which we were not aware, he said, and added, "We were impressed by its religious, ethnic and cultural diversity. They all coexist in harmony and unity."

Dr. Gassoum said he found

that "Islam and Muslims in the United States are safe and sound. Muslims enjoy complete freedom — freedom to exercise their religious obligations, freedom of organisation, and freedom of cooperation among themselves and with other religious groups. This in itself is an example that should be followed everywhere."

He said, however, that a problem Muslims face is a lack of material resources. This, the Algerian scholar said, is largely due to the fact that they are not yet as widely organised as are other religious groups.

What impressed the Algerian scholar most was the prayer before meals that American families offer. "That was a clear evidence of how religious the Americans are," he said. "Before coming here, we did not know that such a thing exists."

Dr. Gassoum and his colleagues were impressed as well by the number of churches, synagogues, mosques and other religious centres. "We did not know that they existed in such huge numbers and sizes. Our visit made us change the opinions we held before we came to this country," he said.

The purpose of the International Visitors programme is to increase mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange, and thus to assist in the development of friendly and peaceful relations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Panama may ask Israel to probe plane crash

PANAMA (AFP) — Panama may ask Israel to help investigate the mid-air explosion of a commuter plane earlier this week that killed 21 people, including 12 Jewish businessmen, officials said Thursday. While civil aviation officials have not theorised on the causes of the explosion Tuesday, Panama's President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladarez said it was a bomb. "Apparently, it was not an accident, but a planted bomb inside the plane," Mr. Perez said during a television interview Wednesday in Washington. "Who is the author, we don't have any idea." Mr. Perez, who met with U.S. President Bill Clinton, said he doubted the attack was related to Monday's deadly bombing at a Jewish centre in Buenos Aires. The plane, which belonged to the Alas airline, exploded and burst in two pieces after taking off Tuesday on a flight to Panama City from the Atlantic port of Colon. It crashed into a mountain killing all 19 passengers, including Colon's mayor, and two crew members. Authorities here said they were investigating the presence of a Lebanese aboard the plane, identified as Lya Jamal, whose remains remain unclaimed. Migration department director Antonio Dominguez said there was no record of Lya Jamal arriving in the country. Civil aviation officials said Wednesday they had requested help in the investigation from experts in the United States and representatives of the Brazilian aircraft manufacturer, Embraer.

Sick Gulf war soldiers to get benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gulf war soldiers with debilitating but undiagnosed illnesses would be eligible for benefits under a bill approved by the House of Veterans Affairs Committee Thursday. The legislation, passed unanimously and sent to the floor of the House of Representatives, requires the military and the department of Veterans Affairs to compensate sick veterans even when the cause of their health problems cannot be directly linked to service in the 1991 war. Thousands of veterans have complained of muscle pains, memory loss, skin rashes, respiratory problems and tumours. They have suggested a number of causes, including possible exposure to Iraqi chemical and biological agents, fumes from oil fires and insecticides. But many have not been able to obtain health care or compensation for service-related health problems because no single cause of "Gulf syndrome" has been discovered. The legislation "takes a bold step forward to recognise their sacrifices and accord them the same benefits that other service-connected disabled veterans receive," said Representative Lane Evans, a senior member of the committee. He said he was pleased that the government had learned from the agent orange experience, when it took years for the Pentagon to acknowledge that Vietnam war veterans were suffering from exposure to the defoliant.

Victoria Kennedy leaves law firm over Libya

WASHINGTON (AP) — Victoria Reggie Kennedy, wife of Senator Edward Kennedy, has resigned from her law firm over its decision to represent Libya in a wrongful death suit, Sen. Kennedy's office said. "Mrs. Kennedy resigned as an act of conscience when she learned of the firm's intention to represent the country of Libya," said a statement issued late Wednesday by the senator's office. Mrs. Kennedy's resignation from the firm Keck, Mahin and Cate, which she joined in 1987, took effect last week. She will work full time on her husband's reelection campaign, said Pamela Hughes, Mr. Kennedy's spokeswoman. Last year, Libya hired former State Department Legal Adviser Abraham Sofaer to negotiate possible settlement of cases stemming from the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people. But Mr. Sofaer's firm, Hughes Hubbard and Reed, dropped Libya after a public outcry and harsh criticism from victims' families. Mr. Kennedy, who has served 32 years in the Senate, is being challenged by Republican businessman Mitt Romney, son of former Michigan Governor George Romney, and John Lukan. Mrs. Kennedy, a partner at the firm for seven years, specialised in bank regulatory law.

Iran raises minimum government salary

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has raised the minimum salary of civil servants by 19.1 per cent, less than the official inflation rate of 22 per cent, a newspaper reported. The daily Salam quoted the employment and administration organisation as saying the minimum monthly salary had been raised to 117,000 rials from 98,200 from the start of the current Iranian year on March 21. The new minimum monthly salary buys \$67 at the official exchange rate or \$49 on the open market, but its actual purchasing power is higher because the government subsidises basic commodities such as fuel, sugar, rice and bread. Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hossein Adel said in April that inflation in the last Iranian year stood at 22 per cent, although some economists say it was much higher.

Two Iranian guards killed in border attack

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian rebels killed two border guards and kidnapped four others when they launched a cross-border attack from Iraq earlier this month, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Friday citing an official statement to the United Nations. In a message addressed to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, Iran's mission at the United Nations protested the attack by the Mujahadeen, Iran's main armed opposition group, and accused Iraq of giving them logistical support. The Iraq-based rebels infiltrated four kilometres into Iran when they attacked Halahleh region in southwestern Iran on July 5, the letter said quoted by IRNA. Two border guards were killed and four others, including an officer, were kidnapped and taken to Iraq, it added.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Coup De Bleu Dans L'Estelle
17:11 Fantomette
17:30 Le Monde Sous Marin
18:20 News in French
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:00 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
21:30 One To One
21:50 The Campbells
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "The Baby and the Bantling"

PRAYER TIMES

04:08 Fajr
05:39 Sunrise (Sunrise) Doha
12:42 Dhuhur
16:23 'Asr
19:45 Maghreb
21:10 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sabbath: Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625941

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625266

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 524328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654692

Church of Nazareth Tel. 676991

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate to active. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 21 / 33

Amman 25 / 39

Dead Sea 17 / 35

Jordan Valley 24 / 38

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 32, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fayez Al Dabbas 759155
Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710
Dr. Abbas Al Hakeim 885446
Dr. Shafiq Abu Zayed 737962
Firas pharmacy 661912
Perdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Al Selen pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeissal pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shogair 246140
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Maruf Damrah 985322
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 32, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 021 111, 637777
Fire Brigade 801228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 806390
Central Amman Telephone 630345
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 630345
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 816145

Electric Power 636381
RI Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akilsh Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642462
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shunassani 664171/4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 643945
Al-Mushter Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/3
Al-Badr, J. Ashrafish 771112/6
Army, Marfa 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900660
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Prince Basma Hospital (02)225555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al Nafesa Hospital (02)747100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OA)
13:30 Moscow, Doha (OF)
15:45 Rome, Larnaca (AZ)
18:30 Algiers (AH)
20:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:30 Cairo (MS)
23:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Beirut (RJ)
07:30 Zagreb (RJ)
08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
12:55 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:05 Cairo (RJ)
13:05 London (RJ)
14:30 Madrid (RJ)
14:45 Paris (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 Larnaca (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 New Delhi (RJ)
18:15 Aqaba (RJ)
18:15 Doha (RJ)
18:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
18:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
18:30 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:27:50 Cairo (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
19:25 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
21:30 Zagreb (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
13:00 Vienna (OA)
14:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)
21:15 Cairo (MS)
23:05 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:25 Amsterdam (KL)

HIAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday.
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:50 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 300 / 400
Apricots 800 / 700
Banana 680
Banana (Mekammar) 620
Cabbage 140 / 80
Carrot 230 / 180
Cherry 1200 / 700
Cauliflower 260 / 180
Cucumbers (large) 90 / 50
Cucumbers (small) 180 / 100
Eggplant 180 / 100
Fig 350 / 460
Garlic 800 / 600
Grapes 400 / 300
Lemon 620 / 500
Marrow (large) 90 / 50
Marrow (small) 220 / 150
Mulakshah 120 / 70
Okra 850 / 600
Orange 350 / 400
Onion (dry) 220 / 150
Sweet Melon 200 / 100
Pepper (hot) 300 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 180
Potato 430 / 350
Pumpkin 800 / 600
Tomato 100 / 50
String beans 300 / 200
Watermelon 110 / 60

الله أكبر

Home News

IN BRIEF

...ael to probe plane
... explosion of a commercial...
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... U.S. President Bill Clinton...
... as related to Monday's...
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... investigation from...
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King honours Princess Sarvath

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday conferred upon Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hashan Jordan's Al Nahda (Renaissance) Medal in appreciation of her efforts, work and dedication in the service of the Kingdom. The medal reads: "Her Royal Highness, Dear Princess Sarvath Al Hashan, may God keep her. Greetings of love, confidence and appreciation. Please accept Al Nahda Medal as a gesture of love, and in recognition of all the good that you have been doing." Princess Sarvath is the honorary president of the Young Women's Muslim Association and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society. The Princess has also extended her patronage to the Amman Baccalaureate School since its establishment. She has worked to promote the education, socio-economic conditions, empowerment and general status of the Jordanian woman.

Arab Children's Congress ends

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The forty Arab children who gathered in Amman on July 17 for the 14th Arab Children's Congress ended their six-day activities with a visit to the Dead Sea Friday.
Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday awarded the children and their supervisors with certificates and gifts in a closing ceremony held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).
"You are the mother of all Arab children," said a Sudanese child, representing one of 19 Arab countries, expressing his feelings upon receiving the award.
Lina Tel, director of the Theatre in Education Programme at Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) welcomed Queen Noor and the gathering and presented the final recommendations presented by the children at the congress.
In the statement, the children recommended the creation of an Arab children's congress association, to be headed by Queen Noor to promote links among children in the Arab World and to serve as a follow-up action on the congress' activities and recommendations and to ensure that children's issues be presented to policy-makers and concerned authorities.
The statement also called for bolstering the congress's efforts as the embodiment of Arab solidarity, cooperation and unity.
It also stressed the need for stimulating the spirit of scientific research and education among Arab children and urged the publication of a bi-annual gazette to tackle children's issues in the Arab World.
The statement, which voiced appreciation for the Queen's sponsorship of the congress, expressed hope that the United Nations would end the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people and children and called for ending wars and famine.
Finally, the children called on Queen Noor to submit their recommendations to the Arab League and the United Nations.
The annual event which was initiated by Her Majesty following the conclusion of the 1980 Arab summit in Amman, was held under the theme "The Role of the Family in Promoting Common Arab Culture."
The congress brought together children from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Palestine, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Libya, Morocco, Lebanon and Jordan.
During the children's stay in the kingdom, they were treated to various performances including folkloric dances and poetry readings depicting the traditional cultures of the participating countries. In addition to other regular entertainment programmes.
The children also visited tourist sites and became acquainted with Jordanian families, attended workshops and lectures conducted by Jordanian intellectuals, and visited children's libraries as well as the University of Jordan.
The Arab Children's Congress seeks to encourage the concept that Arab children belong to one nation with the same culture, stresses the importance of learning new skills and introduces the children to come to know more about Jordan, its people and history as well as its relationship with other Arab countries.
The four or five children invited from each Arab state to convene in Amman for the congress range in age between 10 and 15.

8 political parties plan movement against Jordan-Israel talks

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Parties opposed to the Jordanian-Israeli bilateral talks voiced their support for reaching comprehensive and just peace, but said that they are laying the ground work for a national opposition movement to what they described as giving territory to American and Israeli greedy ambitions to dominate the region's economic and political sovereignty.
"We are preparing for a number of sit-ins to take place starting next week," said Tayseer Zabri, secretary general of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party (JPDP), adding that soon the public will realise the threat of "hastening the course of negotiations on all Arabs."
In a recent statement issued by eight political parties — Jordanian People's Democratic Party (JPDP), Islamic Action Front Party (IAF), Jordanian Communist Party (JCP), Jordanian Democratic Socialist Party (JDSP), Popular Action Front Party (PAFP), Jordanian Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party (JBASP), Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party (JDPUP), and Jordanian Arab Democratic Party (JADP) — they objected to the Wadi Araba Jordanian-Israeli negotiations on borders, security and water, energy and environment.
The parties called on all political parties, professional and labour unions, societies, clubs and the general public

Princess Rahmah opens 7th YBF conference

'Establishing a lasting peace requires human values'

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Her Royal Highness Princess Rahmah Friday opened the Seventh Annual International Conference on Youth Building the Future (YBF) at Philadelphia Hotel, under the theme, "peace".
The present generation has witnessed directly or indirectly, and through the media wars, massacres, and disasters which wreaked havoc and bore tragedy to men, women and children, said the Princess.
"Thousands of people are killed in our world today and others are starving, while natural resources and wealth are diminishing," she said.
Princess Rahmah added that ignorance, ethnicism and cultural differences were the spark that led to racial discrimination and instability at this stage, when man ignored his menfolk and prevented future generations from their legitimate rights to inherit the land and its natural resources.
The Princess said, "we are not here in a position to solve such conflicts, but we should respect cultural differences and habits in order to safeguard humanity and protect stability."
She called for respecting human dignity and ensuring freedom, prosperity and human welfare.
Concluding her speech, Princess Rahmah said establishing a lasting peace requires similar human values, taking into account ethnic and cultural differences.
Conference Coordinator Lina Arafat said the selection of "peace" as the theme of this year's YBF conferences is meant to stress its importance to future generations.
She emphasised the value of respecting others, showing tolerance towards them and allowing them their identity and dignity.
"The shift from the culture of conflict and wars to the culture of peace requires public participation through cooperation and understanding," she said.
Ms. Arafat added that the role of the YBF should concentrate on addressing future challenges through cooperation, better understanding and friendship.
The conference will discuss several working papers on the importance of peace, presented by Jordanian and international experts.
Participants will discuss during various workshops such issues as environment, information, education, pollution, international politics and human rights, the status of women and distribution of wealth.
Taking part in the conference are youth from 30 countries.
The YBF is an international network of young people of different backgrounds working towards improving global communication, cooperation, understanding and awareness.
King Hussein said the principles upon which the club was founded can contribute to enhancing brotherly ties among the youth of the nation through cooperation with youth clubs, cultural and voluntary forums in Jordan.
The King called on the Jordanian youth to reflect the Kingdom's distinguished cultural image and to highlight its pan-Arab and humanitarian role and its belief in and advocacy for progress, freedom, human dignity and peace.
King Hussein said Jordan's vision is based on freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights, adding that Jordanian youth keep themselves from division, subjection and backwardness.
Jordanian youth realise that they have the duty to take part in building their homeland, the King said.

AAUG international conference to delve into 'the Arab World preparing for the 21st century'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The Association of Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG) opens its second international conference here Sunday to delve into this year's theme, "The Arab World Preparing for the 21st Century."
With the momentum currently being seen in the Middle East peace process, organisers of the AAUG meeting see their programme as most applicable and certainly timely.
According to AAUG President Ziad J. Asali, who arrived in Amman early last week, the three-day event, open free of charge to Jordanians, starts Sunday evening. Following the inaugural and presidential addresses, Dr. Asali said, the organisers plan a "town meeting" at which members of the AAUG board of directors and the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions and exchange ideas on any topic concerning the Arab-American community, Arab-American relations with the U.S. government, and Arab-American relations with the Arab World.
As a non-profit, educational and cultural organisation, the AAUG is dedicated to fostering better understanding between the Arab and American peoples, and promoting informed discussion of critical issues concerning the Arab World and the United States, Dr. Asali told the Jordan Times in an interview.
The conference schedule is bristling with 35 presentations split over two days and into three major units of interest: "Arab Economic Security and the Emerging Global Patterns"; "Arab Political Security and New Global Realities"; and "Agenda for the Future of the Arab World."
Programme Chair Jamil E. Jreisat said AAUG membership comprises the largest assemblage of Arab-American scholars and professionals in North America, and the line-up of panels, topics and speakers matches the association's scholarly focus.
Monday's panels are five and include the following. Panel I addresses "Promise and Reality of National Development Within the Arab World." It is chaired by George Corm of the Council of Economic and Financial Studies in Paris, who is also a participant, and includes panelists Antoine B. Zahlan, a London-based consultant, and Dr. Jreisat, professor of public administration, government and international affairs at the University of South Florida.
Panel II looks at "Emerging Economic and Trade Alliances and Their Relevance to Arab Economic Development." Its chair and also acting as a panelist is Atif Kurbursi of Canada's McMaster University's Department of Economics. Panelists are Ribhi Abul Haj, former director of the industry division at the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Hassan Charif, Fadel Naqib of Waterloo University in Canada, and Youssef Sayegh, renowned Palestinian economic consultant.
Panel III, which focuses on "The Arab Woman in the Emerging Civil Society," holds much significance for Jordan as the National Committee for Women has just completed a workshop in preparation for Jordan's presentation at the 1995 Beijing World Conference on Women. The AAUG panel is chaired by Upper House of Parliament Member Leila Sharaf. Panelists are Sari Nasser, professor of sociology at the University of Jordan, Sahar Khalifeh, author and novelist from Palestine, Hala Maktoud, at George Mason University in Virginia, and Rabab Abdul Hadi of Yale University.
Panel IV, "The Challenges Facing the Development of Arab Civil Society," is chaired by Human Ghassib, editor-in-chief of the Cultural Journal of the University of Jordan. The panelists are Ghada Karmi at the Centre of Near and Middle East Studies at London's School of Oriental and African Studies, Aziz Al Azme, professor of Islamic studies at the University of Exeter, and Hisham Milhem, a Washington-based journalist.
Panel V addresses "Intra and International Relations of the Arab World." It is chaired by Fawzi Gharibeh, president of the University of Jordan. Panelists are Adel Safy, director of the Institute of International Studies in British Columbia, Prexy Nesbitt of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in Chicago, and Gamil A. Mattar of the Arab Centre for Development and Futuristic Research in Cairo.
Tuesday's programme looks at strategic issues affecting the future of Arab society from various disciplinary foundations. It starts with Panel VI, "Agenda for Future Public Policy," and consists of chair Khair el-Din Haseeh, director general of the Centre for Arab Unity Studies in Cairo, and Sayed Yassin of the Centre for Political and Strategic Affairs of Al-Ahram daily in Cairo.
According to Dr. Jreisat, the last panel, Panel VII, "Technology and Health Policy," was added on because health delivery is seen as a policy issue.
Panel VII is chaired by Abdul Rahim Malhas, former minister of health, and panelists are Omar M. Latouf, Emory University School of Medicine, Dale Mullen, of Mullen Telecommunications Service in Denver, Musa M. Ghannam of Merck pharmaceuticals in Pennsylvania and Munir H. Nayfeh at the University of Illinois' Department of Physics.
On the sidelines of this back to back and sometimes overlapping programme, the AAUG will put on display an exhibit of its publications.
According to Dr. Asali, a specialist in internal medicine, the association established its own publishing house and issues the widely-subscribed-to Arab Studies Quarterly. It was the first avenue by which Arab academicians could publish their works in the U.S., said Dr. Asali. He added that the publishing house produces books, pamphlets and other materials, contributing to a better understanding of the Arab World.
The AAUG chose Amman as the venue for its second international conference and the event is being coordinated here by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan. All panel presentations will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).
Founded in 1967, the AAUG is the oldest national Arab-American organisation. In addition to publishing books, papers and periodicals on Arab and Arab-American affairs, the Arab-Israeli conflict and U.S. foreign policy, the AAUG organises conferences, seminars, and an annual convention; sponsors delegations to the Middle East, supports human rights and civil liberties; and helps bring its members' professional skills to bear on socio-economic needs of the Arab World, explained Dr. Asali.
The association is funded solely through membership dues and private donations.

W H A T ' S GOING ON

- The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.
- JERASH FESTIVAL**
 - ★ Concert by Brigham Young University band at the South Theatre at 20:30.
 - ★ Concert by Nas Al Givwan group of Morocco at the Artemis Theatre at 21:30.
 - ★ Concert by the Royal Jordanian Folklore Troupe at the Sound and Light Theatre at 21:00.
 - ★ The Smurf Show (Haya Centre) at the Sound and Light Theatre at 19:00.
 - PLAY**
 - ★ Play in Arabic entitled "A Black Comedy" by Majd Al Qasas at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.
 - EXHIBITIONS**
 - ★ Exhibition of Chinese products at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Oil painting and ceramic exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Al 'Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Sagra (Tel. 644451).
 - ★ Plastic art exhibition by Adnan Al Hlu and Muhammad Hamdan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Reem Lutfi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Gardens St. (Tel. 695291).
 - ★ Exhibition of abstract oil paintings by Mahdi Al Sarraf at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).
 - ★ Exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Alla Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639350).
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan Shaban at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
 - ★ Exhibition entitled "Arab Artists in France" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Lweibdeh, off Al Muntazah Circle (Tel. 630128).
 - ★ Exhibition by artist Bishara Al Najjar at the Orient Gallery for Fine Arts, Gardens St. (Tel. 698513).
 - LECTURE**
 - ★ Lecture in Arabic by Syrian economist Sharif Abu Jaber entitled "Economic Groupings and the Middle Eastern Market" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.
 - POETRY RECITAL**
 - ★ Recital of Arabic poems by Abdul Wahab Al Bayati at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweibdeh at 6:30 p.m.

Regent: Jordan is exercising

(Continued from page 1)
Kingdom.
The problem of refugees, water resources and water consumption cannot be resolved except through a comprehensive regional perspective," said the Regent. "No country can take a unilateral independent decision."
In reply to a question on whether economic and social dimensions were a basic factor for maintaining security and stability, the Regent said the basic factor was the total concordance over the National Charter and consensus about "the will towards change for the better and respecting the democratic principles which recognise and respect constructive differences in opinion."
The Regent conceded that the peace process could stumble, given that there were many Arab parties opposed to a peace settlement.
On internal criticism of the peace process, the Regent said the opposition has the right to express its opinion. He expressed hope that dialogue would foster the positives and examine the negatives, if they exist. "Let's take for example the need to emphasise the right of the Arabs, Muslims and Christians alike, in Jerusalem," he said. "I don't think there is any difference on this issue."

Writers refuse normalisation with Israel

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The Jordanian Writers Society (JWS) Friday held an exceptional meeting to define its policy on the issue of normalisation with Israel.
The meeting, which was attended by 60 members of the 244 registered in the society, called for the refusal of any normalisation with Israel.
The meeting was originally called to ask JWS members to formulate their position on "any member who attends a conference with Israeli delegates" as well as on the society's position against "any JWS member who communicates with the Israeli media."
The call for the meeting followed an uproar by some JWS members created by their anger at the attendance of Jordanian women at a Marrakesh conference on Mediterranean women last May that included the participation of Israeli women.
JWS President Mu'nes Razzaz, addressing JWS members Friday at the society's headquarters in Jabal Lweibdeh, said Arab intellectuals who are against racism and occupation and forcing reality should not accept normalisation.
"We don't see any benefit in dealing with Israeli intellectual symbols who believe in racist Zionism," Mr. Razzaz said.
"Our aim at the society is free democracy and dialogue regarding normalisation," Mr. Razzaz said.
The JWS administrative committee listed several principles to be adopted including: Palestine is an Arab land that is part of the Arab World; and the Zionist entity is just a foreign colony that is against the Arab nation.
The statement reiterated JWS internal laws reject the ideas of members meeting with any Israeli intellectuals.

CONDOLENCES

The staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing Friday of
Jawaher Suleiman Hawatmeh
grandmother of our Editor-in-Chief
George Hawatmeh
and so dear to all of us who knew her.
May her soul rest in peace

MARKET PRICES	
Apples	1.50
Oranges	1.20
Bananas	1.80
Onions	0.80
Garlic	1.00
Tomatoes	1.10
Cucumbers	0.90
Peppers	1.30
Beans	1.40
Lentils	1.60
Chickpeas	1.70
Wheat	2.00
Barley	1.80
Oats	1.90
Maize	2.10
Soybeans	2.20
Groundnuts	2.30
Sunflower	2.40
Mustard	2.50
Flax	2.60
Linseed	2.70
Castor	2.80
Almonds	2.90
Pistachios	3.00
Walnuts	3.10
Coconuts	3.20
Dates	3.30
Figs	3.40
Grapes	3.50
Pomegranates	3.60
Quinces	3.70
Plums	3.80
Cherries	3.90
Apricots	4.00
Peaches	4.10
Apples (import)	4.20
Oranges (import)	4.30
Bananas (import)	4.40
Onions (import)	4.50
Garlic (import)	4.60
Tomatoes (import)	4.70
Cucumbers (import)	4.80
Peppers (import)	4.90
Beans (import)	5.00
Lentils (import)	5.10
Chickpeas (import)	5.20
Wheat (import)	5.30
Barley (import)	5.40
Oats (import)	5.50
Maize (import)	5.60
Soybeans (import)	5.70
Groundnuts (import)	5.80
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Grapes (import)	7.00
Pomegranates (import)	7.10
Quinces (import)	7.20
Plums (import)	7.30
Cherries (import)	7.40
Apricots (import)	7.50

U.S. wants U.N. approval for possible Haiti invasion

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Clinton administration Thursday sought United Nations approval for an invasion to topple Haiti's military leaders should Washington decide to send troops.

Laying the diplomatic groundwork for armed intervention, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright announced she would circulate a Security Council resolution shortly that would allow a U.S.-led force to use "all necessary means to secure a stable environment" in Haiti.

The phrase "all necessary means" was used when the Council in 1990 authorised U.S. troops to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait as well as the recent French intervention into Rwanda.

Ms. Albright said the purpose of the resolution was to let the Clinton administration look at a "variety of options." But she emphasised that no decision had been made for an invasion and "no deadline has been set."

"We are seeing this resolution as a way of providing us with that possibility," she said.

In Washington, White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers said the resolution would make "the diplomatic means necessary to make sure that the president can exercise any and all options" in Haiti.

Another senior White House official said the resolution would allow the United States to use "all means necessary" to get rid of the

"dictators," adding: "It sends a pretty strong statement to the coup leaders."

Ms. Albright said the resolution would call for a two-phased approach which included an intervention force followed by a U.N. force to retrain the police and military, as called for in the 1993 Governors Island Accord that was supposed to pave the way for the return of democracy.

Under this agreement, Haiti's military ruler Gen. Raoul Cedras was to resign along with some of his top aides and allow President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to form a new government.

The military overthrew the democratically-elected Aristide in September 1991 and is alleged to have been terrorising his supporters since then. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, after many consultations with the Pentagon, last Friday suggested the multinational force include 15,000 troops and 500 police.

He said the U.N. force should have only 1,200 military and police, as originally mandated. But envoys said the United States wanted a 6,000-strong expanded force.

U.N. endorsement of military intervention would help make President Clinton's threat to invade more credible to the embattled but defiant Haitian military as well as attract more countries to join a possible invasion.

At the same time, diplomats said the resolution would put the White House

under more pressure to invade should the military ignore all warnings.

"The thinking is that if they want to do it, they would want the vast majority of U.S. troops out by the mid-November congressional elections," said one U.N. source.

Since the first phase of any invasion is expected to last about 60 days, he pointed to a mid-August invasion, if Mr. Clinton decided to go ahead.

Immediate reaction from an official in Haiti's de facto government, created by the military, was negative as expected.

"The people of Haiti hope that the international community will let them solve their problems," said a government official on condition of anonymity. He also charged that Mr. Aristide was not a real democrat.

In Congress, more than 100 members of the House of Representatives called on Mr. Clinton to seek congressional approval before ordering military intervention.

In a letter to the president released by its initiator, Representative David Skaggs, a Colorado Democrat, 105 members of both parties said the president should seek prior congressional approval unless a genuine emergency in Haiti threatened the safety of American citizens.

Mr. Skaggs told a news conference: "If President Clinton wants to send the Marines into Haiti to change the government there, the constitution requires that the

mission start here (in Congress)."

Under the U.N. constitution, Congress has the obligation to declare war. However, U.S. troops have frequently been involved in combat overseas without such a declaration.

Ms. Albright, meanwhile, said the response in the Security Council had been positive. "I think everyone understands the necessity for moving on this."

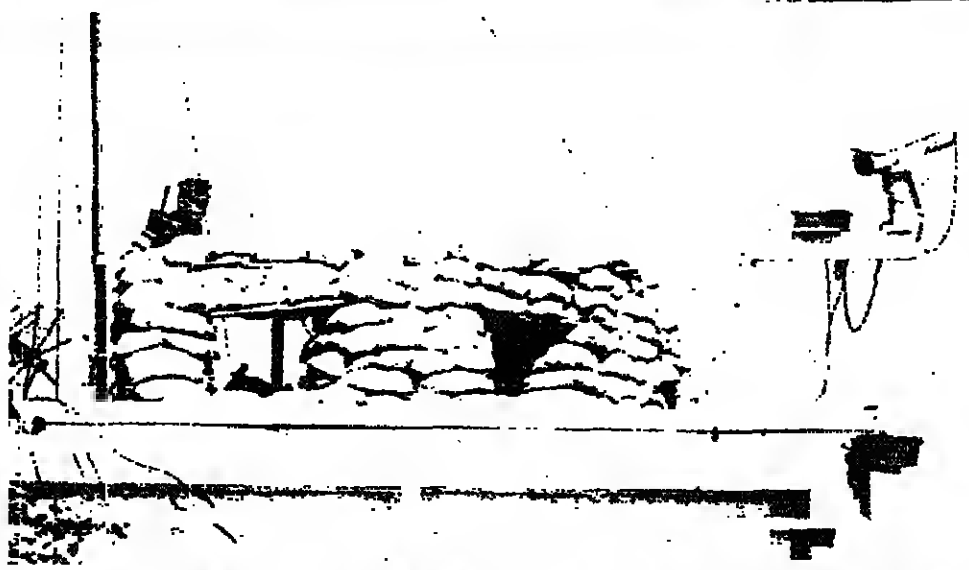
She spent most of Thursday afternoon speaking to Council members individually. Brazil is known to have reservations, believing that stringent sanctions imposed by the Security Council needed more time to work.

Brazil also is wary about the Organisation of American States participating in any invasion and questions whether troops will be able to get out quickly, diplomats said.

Meanwhile, Washington has asked Israel to contribute troops to the international peacekeeping force for Haiti after a U.S. invasion to topple the island's military leaders, Israel's Foreign Ministry said Friday.

"Yes, the request was passed to us and we are checking it," a ministry spokeswoman told Reuters when asked to confirm a report in Israel's Yedioth Achronoth daily.

The report said Washington had made the same request to the Netherlands and France. The United States had asked Israel for infantry and air force units.



A U.S. Marine keeps watch behind a sandbag bunker on the roof of the U.S. embassy in Port Au Prince. The U.S. is attempting to gain United Nations support for military intervention to remove Haiti's military backed government (AFP photo)

Murayama cabinet support stays low

TOKYO (Agencies) — Popular support for the three-week-old cabinet of Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama remains low at 29.7 per cent, a Japanese news agency poll said Friday.

Jiji Press said it was the third lowest approval rating for a new cabinet, with 39.2 per cent of respondents disapproving of the cabinet.

The Sotoku Uno cabinet was the lowest at 19.5 per cent, followed by the Toshiki Kaifu cabinet at 27.5 per cent, both in 1989.

Of those who disapproved of the Murayama cabinet, 19.3 per cent said they did not expect much from him, the country's first Socialist premier in 47 years.

The Jiji poll, conducted last week, covered 2,000 eligible voters, of whom 71.9 per cent responded.

Meanwhile, Japan's conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has accepted an invitation from Mr. Murayama's Socialists to take part in a rally against nuclear arms next month, party officials said Friday.

In an effort to solidify his unusual alliance with the LDP, Mr. Murayama this week declared that his Socialist Party would no longer fight on constitutional grounds to scrap the country's military.

Now the LDP has accepted a Socialist invitation to take part in an annual rally of the Japan Congress Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikin) from Aug. 3 to 6.

In addition, LDP President Yoshi Kono, Mr. Murayama's deputy and foreign minister, has said his party will not seek to revise Japan's pacifist constitution, as called for in the LDP's party platform.

The LDP, which returned to government in a coalition with the Socialists on June 30 after losing power last August, has long campaigned to rewrite the U.S.-drafted constitution.

The LDP has maintained the constitution's ban on the possession of military forces does not deny Japan the right to self-defence, and that it can keep defence forces.

More than 8,000 Japanese anti-nuclear activists and delegations from international groups are to take part in the anti-nuclear rally in Hiroshima, where the United States dropped its first atomic bomb, on Aug. 6, 1945.

Traditionally, the LDP has refused to attend Gensuikin events on the grounds the organisation is sponsored by the Socialists.

Gensuikin officials said they hoped the LDP move would be a step forward to the group's goal of enacting a law to help "hibakusha", people who suffer from having been exposed to radiation.

Japanese leftists have long fought the government, dominated by the LDP for most of the post-World War II era, on the issue, saying the current medical programme for recognised hibakusha is inadequate.

The government recognises 340,000 hibakusha, but the anti-nuclear camp says the number is far larger.

Japan's leftists have long fought the government, dominated by the LDP for most of the post-World War II era, on the issue, saying the current medical programme for recognised hibakusha is inadequate.

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Junk food blamed for Philippine nutrition decline

MANILA (R) — Love of Western-style junk food is causing nutrition standards to decline in the Philippines where more than half the people live in poverty, President Fidel Ramos said Friday. Consumption of fruit and vegetables by Filipinos fell an alarming 25 per cent in the 10 years to 1987, he told a conference on nutrition. "What may have happened is that our old dietary values have lost out to the snappier and more attractive come-on of junk food." Despite proliferating hamburger and pizza chains, Mr. Ramos said there was no reason why people could not be persuaded to return to what was good for their health and pocket.

Canada goose an unwelcome guest in U.K.

LONDON (AFP) — The British government would like to inform the Canada goose, which defecates every three to four minutes and produces 45 kilos (100 pounds) of excrement a week, that it is not welcome here. The apparent world champion defecator — the Guinness Book of World Records is silent on the subject — fouls the verdant rolling meadows, manicured lawns and lush flower beds of London's parks, says the Department of Environment (DOE). The geese are also "aggressive to humans" and occasionally splatter against the odd low-flying plane, says a DOE publication enumerating nine ways of eliminating geese, from wringing their necks to poking holes in their eggs. "A large flock, defecating every few minutes, can deposit a great deal of excrement," notes "Canada Geese — A Guide to Legal Control Methods," which DOE Canada Goose Working Party published. The goose is equally adept at making more geese. The large birds' "remarkable powers of excretion and reproduction" demand a long-term management plan, says the working party. Otherwise, Britain's goose population, up from 19,000 in the 1970s to 60,000 today, could double by 2000. The environmental problem is exacerbated, says the DOE, by the fact that the geese have no natural enemies, and is protected by Britain's Wildlife and Countryside Act and European Union rules.

Taiwan police arrest illegal radio host

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan police arrested the host of an underground radio station Friday, charging him with organising an illegal public gathering and sparking protests by hundreds of taxi-driving fans outside the court. Police raided underground radio station Voice Of Taiwan in the Taipei suburbs shortly after dawn, arresting popular talk show host Hsu Roog-Chi, famed for criticising the ruling Nationalist Party. Mr. Hsu appeared in the Taipei District Court charged with violating public order and calling an illegal public gathering last April when he broadcast an appeal for taxi drivers to stop the planned demolition of the Nationalist Party's two-storey red-brick headquarters in Taipei. Hundreds of taxi-drivers responded, preventing demolition of the nationalists' building, which Mr. Hsu said was an historic site. Mr. Hsu had refused repeatedly to answer a summons to appear in court in connection with April's taxi demonstration, police said. On Friday, hundreds of taxi-drivers tried to block the road outside the court with their yellow taxis after other Voice Of Taiwan hosts broadcast an appeal for support for Mr. Hsu. Voice Of Taiwan was not stopped from broadcasting. Mr. Hsu, who refused to pay Taiwan dollar 150,000 bail, was released after three members of the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party agreed to stand as guarantors for the outspoken broadcaster. The station, with a mass audience of taxi drivers, started broadcasting in the local Taiwanese dialect last January without registering with the government as required by law. Taiwan lifted a four-decade-old ban last year on new radio stations to liberalise the electronic media. But Voice Of Taiwan has not applied to register under the new and strict regulations governing private stations. The island has 33 radio stations, 21 of which are private. BCC, the largest, is controlled by the Nationalists.

Jupiter comet gives clues on collisions with Earth

MELBOURNE (R) — The fiery collision of comet fragments with Jupiter will throw up valuable information on smaller crashes by space debris into Earth's atmosphere, a scientist on the world's only flying telescope said Friday.

Thursday's viewing through a unique type of telescope of the impact of fragment R, the 15th of 21 fragments to hit the dense jovian atmosphere this week, produced dramatic results, planetary scientist Ann Sprague said.

"We have excellent data which will give us several months of good work," she said in Melbourne Friday before reboarding U.S. space agency NASA's Kuiper Observatory, a converted Lockheed C-141 troop transporter, to view the last fragment to hit Jupiter at about 0800 GMT.

Australia and South Africa are considered among the best vantage points to view the comet's spectacular death throes.

"The region (of the jovian atmosphere) in which this impact exploded would be equivalent to our upper atmosphere," Ms. Sprague said. "The impact can definitely give us information about how energy gets deposited in the atmosphere of Earth."

"Things like that do happen here on Earth, although none as dramatic in recorded history," she told Reuters.

Ms. Sprague, of the University of Arizona, said her data on fragment R was gathered through a unique infra-red heat-detecting telescope, which measured emissions of the gases ethane and acetylene carrying heat from the explosion.

NASA astronomer David Crisp, working at the Anglo-

Australian Observatory northwest of Sydney, said Earth's atmosphere had been regularly hit by comet particles, asteroid fragments and meteorites since the beginning of time.

"We're visited constantly by such things, but usually they are tiny," Mr. Crisp said.

"The massive gravitational pull of Jupiter acts as a giant cosmic vacuum cleaner, and may protect the Earth to some extent," he said.

A mysterious fragment of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 reappeared with a bang as the first two pieces of a triple mini-comet smashup pummeled Jupiter's surface, astronomers said Thursday.

Among the various flashes, bruises and "black eyes" caused by the impact of the dying comet, scientists detected signs of a comet chunk known as fragment M, which had disappeared from view earlier this year.

Dhaka government may be sued over Nasrin

DHAKA (R) — The leader of a small Bangladeshi party is threatening to sue officials for failing to arrest feminist writer Taslima Nasrin and for letting British television broadcast an interview with her.

A lawyer Thursday served notices on behalf of Amina Khatoun, general secretary of the Swadesh Party, on the information and home secretaries and on the British Broadcasting Corporation's Dhaka correspondent, Ataus Samad.

In her notice, Ms. Khatoun accused the home secretary of failing to act against Dr. Nasrin, who has been in hiding to avoid arrest and threats against her life by Muslim fundamentalists.

The statement accused fundamentalists of using religion for selfish gain and behaving like fascists.

Solzhenitsyn returns to Moscow after 20 years

MOSCOW (R) — Writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn ended a two-month trek across Russia on Thursday night when his private railway carriage drew into Moscow's Yaroslavl Station. He had spent the previous 20 years in exile abroad.

"It's as if the bloody king was coming," fumed one of several angry traders prevented from doing business at the station in the hours before the Nobel laureate's arrival.

Militia and special armed units lined the platforms as cleaners spruced up the station at lightning speed.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn was greeted in light rain by a crowd of about 2,000 people. Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov welcomed him as dozens of interior troops barred reporters from asking questions.

Before setting off on the last leg of his journey, the 75-year-old writer told reporters in Yaroslavl that the familiarisation trip had been a success and that he had seen "what I wanted and as much as I needed" of his motherland.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn, accompanied by his wife Nataliya and two sons Yermolai and Ignat, has called the journey a crusade for the spiritual revival of Russia.

He now plans to settle in the capital until a house being built for him on the outskirts of Moscow is completed.

ITAR-TASS news agency said President Boris Yeltsin wanted to meet him to hear his impressions of the epic journey, which began in the Far Eastern port of Vladivostok in May.

"Clearly, it would be useful if the writer and the politician exchanged information," presidential spokes-



Russian Nobel Prize laureate and author Alexander Solzhenitsyn (2nd from left), surrounded by his relatives and escorted by Moscow's Mayor Yuri Luzhkov (right), arrives to a hero's welcome after 20 years in exile (AFP photo)

man Vyacheslav Kostikov said. No date has been set. But not everyone in Russia has welcomed the return of the conservative writer, whose probity and courage have been revered since Soviet authorities expelled him from home in 1974.

Tough rightist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, whose supporters surged to unexpected prominence in Russian elections last December, snatched his opportunity for a sneer.

Comparing Mr. Solzhenitsyn's return to that of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin, who spent 17 years in exile abroad before leading the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, Mr. Zhirinovskiy said: "It would be better if he went back. We don't need these emigres who've been sitting out there for 20 years slandering our people. We'll cope with 'reconstructing' Russia without him."

Mr. Solzhenitsyn makes a point of avoiding many modern Russian words, preferring more traditional Slavonic forms.

Instead of former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika", or "rebuilding", Mr. Solzhenitsyn talks of the need to "obustroit" or "reconstruct" Russia. Mr. Zhirinovskiy's snide comment was a jibe at the writer's arcane vocabulary.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn, author of books that portrayed the brutality of life in Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's prison camps, was hustled on to an Aeroflot flight bound for Frankfurt in 1974.

He has been invited to address the State Duma, the lower chamber of parliament, on his return to Moscow. TASS gave no other details on his programme.

The author says he will accept no political post but has pledged to work for the spiritual revival of his homeland.

Since starting his homecoming tour, the writer has attacked the market reforms of President Yeltsin and scorned the first democratic multiparty elections held last December, saying there was not yet even a hint of democracy in Russia.

TASS quoted centrist Nikolai Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, as saying he hoped Mr. Solzhenitsyn would soon "step down from the role of president's critic."

A recent Moscow opinion poll showed the writer's criticisms may not have a big impact on events in Russia. About half those polled said they did not believe Mr. Solzhenitsyn's return would make any difference to events in the country.

Poll: Tories fail to revive voter support, but Labour faces tough task

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's ruling Conservatives remain deeply unpopular with voters, trailing some 28 points behind the Labour opposition, according to the latest MORI findings in the Times Friday.

However, the poll also suggests Labour has a long way to go before convincing voters it is fit to lead the country.

The findings are based on research carried out last weekend before a Tory cabinet reshuffle Wednesday, designed to boost the party's fortunes, and before the announcement Thursday that the "modernising" Tony Blair had, as long predicted, won the Labour leadership contest.

According to MORI, the Tories stand at 23 per cent, down one point from the end

of June, compared with 51 per cent for Labour, down a point over the month.

The Liberal Democrats have advanced one point to 21 per cent and other parties are also slightly higher.

Deep disillusion is reflected in the low level of satisfaction with the government. Only one in two voters and 35 per cent of declared Tory supporters are satisfied with the way the government is running the country.

Following his election to the opposition leadership, it is predicted Mr. Blair will now enjoy "a honeymoon period", and his newly-elected deputy John Prescott claimed Mr. Blair "scars the life out of the Tories".

However, according to MORI

Junk food blame for Philippine nutrition decline

MANILA (AP) — Low-income Western-style junk food is causing a decline in the Philippines, where more than half the population lives in poverty, says a report by the United Nations. Consumption of fast food and vegetables has fallen an alarming 25 per cent in the 10 years to 1991, the report says. "What may have happened is that our old dietary habits have been lost out to the lure of junk food," says a UN spokesman. Despite the decline, the report says there was no reason why people could not be persuaded to return to what was good for their health and pocket.

Canada goose an unwelcome guest in U.K.

LONDON (AP) — The British government would like to inform the Canada goose, which defecates over three to four times a day, that it is not welcome in the U.K. The goose is a pest in the U.K. because of its droppings, which are a health hazard. The government is considering a ban on the goose. The goose is also a pest in the U.S. because of its droppings, which are a health hazard. The government is considering a ban on the goose.



A Rwandan man wearing a hygienic mask and plastic gloves lays the body of a child alongside hundreds more in a refugee camp, 10 kilometres north of Goma. Several thousand Rwandans have died after fleeing to camps around the Zairean town hit by cholera (AFP photo)

U.S., U.N. discuss moves against Bosnian Serbs

SARAJEVO (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry met United Nations military commanders Friday to consider stepping up pressure on the Bosnian Serbs after their effective rejection of a new international peace plan. Mr. Perry had been scheduled to hold the talks in Sarajevo but was forced to divert to Zagreb after hostile fire at United Nations aircraft caused the U.N.-controlled airport in the Bosnian capital to be closed. The United Nations said the airport remained closed to relief flights Friday, the third consecutive day the aid airlift has been suspended. A United Nations spokesman reported a gradual increase in fighting between Serbs and Muslims Thursday along a key supply route in north-central Bosnia. Two people were killed and five wounded by mortar fire on the Muslim-held town of Maglaj. Fresh fighting was also reported from the northwestern enclave of Bihać, with more than 400 shell impacts recorded. U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi has said the U.S. and NATO are planning action against the Serbs following their refusal to give unconditional acceptance to the peace plan drawn up by the U.S., Russia, Britain, Germany and France. In Zagreb, Mr. Perry was meeting Admiral Leighton Smith, NATO's commander in southern Europe. General Bertrand De Lapresle, the commander of U.N. troops in former Yugoslavia, and General Sir Michael Rose, the U.N. field commander in Bosnia. Their discussions centred on stepping up military pressure on the Bosnian Serbs and how to implement any peace settlement should one ever be agreed. Mr. Perry said Thursday the Bosnian Serbs' response to the big-power peace plan could result in tighter sanctions against Serbia, regarded as their sponsor, and the lifting of an arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims. In Sarajevo, U.N. military spokesman Roh Annink said Thursday's shooting incidents were the worst attacks on aircraft landing and taking off in the two years the airport has been open under United Nations control. Maj. Annink said the shots appeared to come from a place where Serb and Bosnian Muslim forces are in positions close to one another, making it impossible for the U.N. to single out either side for blame. In Thursday's attacks, an Ilyushin 76 transport plane was hit by six rounds of small arms fire during take off and landed safely in Ancona, Italy. A U.S. C-141 was shot at while landing and took off again immediately and was shot at again, Maj. Annink said 30-40 impacts were counted when it landed in Germany. A third plane, an Antonov 26, was shot at while landing and subsequently while taking off — both times by machine-gun. A U.S. civilian working for the U.N. was wounded on that take-off. While the Muslim-led Bosnian government accepted the peace plan, which divides Bosnia roughly in half between Serbs and the Muslim-Croat alliance, the Serbs attached a list of conditions to their response which Western diplomats said amounted to a rejection. This prompted the Bosnian government first to withdraw its acceptance of the deal and then reverse its decision following a telephone conversation between U.S. envoy Charles Redman and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. Mr. Redman told reporters from Brussels: "He (Izetbegovic) told me very clearly their unconditional acceptance is still on the table, that it was never off the table." Mr. Izetbegovic earlier made a statement in Sarajevo in which he cited the Serb refusal to endorse the peace plan as grounds for his government to pull back from its own acceptance. "Our unconditional 'yes' has ceased to be valid," Izetbegovic said. The Yugoslav news Agency, Tanjug, said Mr. Izetbegovic's statement and Mr. Redman's "clarification" showed that the Muslim-Croat federation agreed to the peace plan only to bring about tougher sanctions on Yugoslavia and an end to the international arms embargo on the Muslims. The United States Friday contradicted Russia's view that the Bosnian Serbs had not essentially rejected a last-ditch international peace plan. In a clear sign of rifts within the big-power sponsors of peace efforts in Bosnia, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said the Bosnian Serbs' stance was negative. After talks with NATO and U.N. peacekeeping commanders on military steps to impose the plan, Mr. Perry was asked about Russia's statement that the Serbs' demand for more negotiations was "rather positive" and "not devoid of logic." "It was not an acceptance of the plan and that is what the contact group had asked for... we consider it not a positive answer but a disappointing answer and it is going to greatly complicate the path ahead," he told reporters. "We would hope, sincerely hope, that between now and the July 30 meeting (of contact group foreign ministers) that the Bosnian Serbs will reconsider their answer and give them something more positive to work on at that meeting."

U.N. cannot cope, urges Rwandans to leave Zaire

GOMA, Zaire (R) — The U.N. refugee agency said Friday aid organisations could not cope with Rwandan refugees who have fled to Zaire and strongly urged them to return home. "We are strongly encouraging the swift return of refugees. We can't continue what we're doing now," Panos Mountzis, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman, told Reuters in Goma. "UNHCR will be present in many areas of the return and UNAMIR (peacekeeping) forces will be present to guarantee the safety of the process. That's the only solution to the problem. "We do feel it's safe for them to go back now and we will be telling the refugees this message," said Mr. Mountzis, adding that 200 refugees went from Goma to Rwanda Thursday and several hundred were waiting to go back over the border Friday. He said UNHCR special envoy Michel Moussali discussed the crisis Thursday in the Rwandan capital Kigali with Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) commander Major-General Paul Kagame. Gen. Kagame was appointed defence minister and vice-president in a new government formed Tuesday. Mr. Mountzis said Mr. Moussali Friday travelled on to the RPF-captured northwest Rwandan town of Gisenyi, which is just across the border from Goma where thousands among more than one million refugees are dying from disease and exhaustion. He said Mr. Moussali would go to a French-protected safe zone in the southwest Saturday to negotiate with leaders there for the return of at least 500,000 refugees from the area around Bukavu, Zaire. Meanwhile, Rwandan refugees stacked their dead in growing piles Friday and aid workers said a plague of cholera and other diseases was spreading around the apocalyptic camps of eastern Zaire. "It's clear that it's spreading fast," Nina Winquist of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) told reporters in the border town Goma, where cholera is also ravaging the local Zairean population. At Munigi, a few kilometres north of Goma where Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) doctors collected up to 300 bodies Thursday, dozens more corpses lay on a plain of black volcanic rock as dawn filtered through the acid pall of woodsmoke. MSF medical workers said up to 50,000 helpless men, women and children, could come down with cholera in the coming days. Half could die if they were not treated with intravenous (IV) fluids. Isabel Pardieu, a spokeswoman for MSF, said her group was flying in 40,000 litres of IV fluids in the next five days, but people were also dying from malaria, dysentery and measles — a killer for under-fives. She said some cholera had also been seen in Kibumba camp, one of the largest concentrations of people north of Goma. An estimated one million refugees are now in this border region after an unprecedented, war-fuelled exodus from Rwanda where another half million died in two months of ethnic slaughter. Among the mass of humanity, refugees wrap their dead in reed mats. They tie them with the surgical tubing that had been used to drip intravenous fluids into the arms of cholera sufferers, who numbered up to 1,000 at Munigi Thursday. Some refugees pulled the tubing off corpse bundles to use on those still alive lying around the MSF tents. Some sufferers simply drank the IV fluids, only to throw up milky fluids seconds later. On the road to Munigi, groups of bodies that numbered four or five Thursday evening had swollen to 20 or more. Only clean water can slow the spread of cholera but MSF doctors said once the epidemic gained pace the living could be infected directly from the dead and others still alive. MSF was flying in water and sanitation equipment to provide some clean water for the refugees, who are all drinking from the stinking shores of Lake Kivu. UNHCR officials said the vast throng needed a daily supply of 30 million litres of clean water. The supply currently stands at 200,000 litres. Mr. Mountzis said 18 water tanker trucks were due to arrive by road Sunday but 62 more were needed. The U.N. wants to build 60,000 pit latrines, but these will have to be dug into hard lava flows. Water is almost impossible to find beneath the volcanic rock, aid workers added. Most aid flights into Goma Airport, which is literally cracking under the weight of planes, are carrying supplies such as plastic sheeting for refugee huts and food. Three planes with 84 tonnes of food arrived Thursday. The refugees, who poured into Zaire to escape advancing forces of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) eight days ago, are not yet dying of hunger but the United Nations only delivered its first 30 tonnes of food Thursday. This was just enough for only 120,000 people for a single day. ICRC distributed a total of the tonnes in the past week, but aid workers say the refugees need 600 tonnes a day. "It would be better for us to go home if we could be sure the RPF would not massacre us," said one miserable refugee at Munigi. There is little evidence that the Tutsi-dominated RPF has killed civilians, although it was summarily executed officers and government officials after Hutu forces butchered 500,000 people, mainly Tutsis. But the defeated government has spread hysteria among Hutu refugees by saying repeatedly they will be killed if they go home. On Friday about 500 Hutu refugees waited at the frontier on the outskirts of Goma as Zairean and French troops from Operation Turquoise collected huge piles of guns, grenades and machetes. The Zairean soldiers said that once the weapons had been collected they would allow the border, which has been closed for several days, to open again. RPF guerrillas, whose leaders announced a new transitional government in the capital Kigali Tuesday, and who are on the Rwandan side of the border said they would welcome people back. French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said Friday he would send two members of his government to help bolster France's relief efforts in Zaire and Rwanda as thousands of refugees from Rwanda began to die of cholera.

University rejects Jakarta account of unrest

JAKARTA (R) — East Timor's university has rejected official accounts of last week's protests, accusing Indonesian security forces of initiating violence that left dozens injured, a university official said Friday. Armando Maia, vice rector for academic affairs, told Reuters by telephone from Dili the university had issued its own version of events, in which it rejected military and Foreign Ministry accounts blaming students for the clash. A translation of the document was obtained by Reuters. "We saw the event as it unfolded and were witness to the fact that the violence was not initiated by the demonstrators, that the injuries inflicted on the wounded were not only the result of stone-throwing, but were more the result of the violence perpetrated by the security forces," it said. More than a dozen students and Catholic youths were injured after security forces wielding batons, shields and tear-gas broke up a march on the local parliament in protest at the alleged harassment of two Catholic nuns on the campus. It was the worst reported incident there since troops in late 1991 gunned down up to 300 demonstrators at a Dili cemetery. The United States has expressed concern about recent developments in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, which was invaded in 1975 and later annexed by Indonesia. Indonesian forces have since faced rumbling unrest among the mainly Catholic community and a low-level guerrilla campaign which many East Timorese say they tacitly support. Mr. Maia confirmed the contents of the document and said Pastor Bratasudarna, the university's rector, had decided to publish the document after the government denied security forces had violently broken up the protest. "We don't want to be involved in any protest with the government but we want to tell the truth," Mr. Maia said.

New law to replace Italy's custody decree

ROME (R) — Italy's government, battered by internal strife over a decree that helped scores of corruption suspects leave jail, met Friday to discuss an amended draft law after it was forced to scrap the original measure. Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's coalition nearly crashed earlier this week under the weight of accusations that it was trying to protect graft suspects with the decree that limited magistrates' rights of arrest. The bitterness of the row was illustrated Thursday when members of Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) party scuffled in parliament with coalition colleagues of the federalist, Northern League. The League, which built its popularity on the fight against graft and is Mr. Berlusconi's largest political partner, brought the government to the brink of collapse by changing its mind and refusing to back the decree. The measure removed a string of crimes for which a suspect could be held in pre-trial custody, helping more than 2,500 people — including more than 230 graft suspects — leave jail. Many were moved to house arrest. In his first serious setback since entering politics seven months ago, Mr. Berlusconi was forced to drop the decree Tuesday and agree to replace it with a draft law that could be discussed by parliament before taking effect. It is expected to restore bribery and corruption as offences for which suspects may be held in pre-trial detention. Gianfranco Fini, head of the neo-fascist-led National Alliance and a key coalition partner, played down the impact of the climbdown on the government, which faces sensitive decisions on spending cuts to reduce Italy's mammoth budget deficit. "The fact that we changed our position is not a sign of weakness," Mr. Fini said told La Stampa newspaper in an interview. "Only arrogant governments confront problems with their heads down and then break them." Government sources said the new measure would seek to limit the amount of time a suspect can spend in pre-trial custody but would not automatically exclude corruption suspects. The new bill is expected to impose tighter restrictions on investigating magistrates, including the need to demonstrate clearly that a suspect could tamper with evidence if left free. Protest at Mr. Berlusconi's original decree fuelled nationwide anger at his conservative government as cohorts of critics, including the pool of Milan magistrates who exposed the tangentopoli (bribeville) scandal, lined up to accuse him of trying to bury corruption investigations. Mr. Berlusconi, whose brother Paolo was briefly held in jail earlier this year on suspicion of corruption, has defended the measure as a charter for human rights. A media tycoon who owns three national television stations, Mr. Berlusconi said investigators are too heavily handed with the use of pre-trial custody and must be reined in. The controversial decree officially ceased to have effect Friday with the publication of a notice in the official government Gazette that parliament had rejected it. Thursday's parliamentary vote against the decree was a formality after Mr. Berlusconi agreed to replace it with a draft bill. The session was overshadowed by the scuffles between Forza Italia and League members. In uproar reminiscent of Italy's old scandal-stained parliament, stewards in frock coats rushed in and formed a cordon between the two groups.

Bonn plays down 'world policeman' role

BONN (R) — Germany said Friday it has no desire to play world policeman and would make very cautious use of its right, endorsed by a Supreme Court ruling this month, to take part in international peacekeeping missions. "Because we cannot shoulder the burden of peacekeeping on our own, we will have to say 'no' more often than 'yes' in future," said Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told parliament. He was speaking at a special sitting convened during the summer break to call for belated approval of German troop deployments on NATO air and sea patrols of former Yugoslavia. The Constitutional Court ruled two weeks ago that the 1949 constitution did not bar German troops from joining United Nations peacekeeping or combat missions, provided any deployment was approved by parliament. Chancellor Helmut Kohl has gradually increased Bonn's international involvement since 1990, sending troops to monitor U.N. sanctions and a no-fly zone in ex-Yugoslavia and to Somalia. The court ruling removed all obstacles to a full military role for Germany. In a formal statement of

Burma steals spotlight in ASEAN debut

BANGKOK (AFP) — Burma, which for decades lived in obdurate isolation, took centre stage Friday in its controversial debut at the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) when it agreed to open talks with United Nations representatives. Attending the annual ASEAN foreign ministers meeting as a guest of host Thailand, Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gya was expected to hold an informal, preliminary meeting later Friday with a U.N. official. The news that the junta in Rangoon was prepared to open a dialogue with U.N. representatives was apparently timed for maximum impact at the ASEAN meeting, where member states, official observers and guests welcomed the gesture. Many of ASEAN's Western partners, who are to hold two days of meetings with the six-nation grouping next week, had been harshly critical of the invitation to Burma, which they say should be diplomatically isolated because of its human rights record. The ASEAN meetings followed on the heels of the fifth anniversary Wednesday of the house arrest of Burma's leading opposition figure, Aung San Suu Kyi at her home in Rangoon — a landmark that reminded the world of Burma's shortcomings. Thai government spokesman Ahnissit Vejajiva said Friday that Burma's willingness to talk was vindication for ASEAN's policy of "constructive engagement" which believes that change can best be promoted by regular contacts rather than isolation. The U.S. ambassador to Thailand, David Lambertson, reacted cautiously to the news. "I can only say that we hope this represents progress. Beyond that, I really think we don't know," Mr. Lambertson said after opening session.

Burma troops reportedly clash with refugees

BANGKOK (AFP) — Some 100 Burmese troops occupied a refugee camp of the Mon ethnic minority inside Burma, sending thousands of the refugees fleeing across the nearby border into Thailand, a refugee group said Friday. The soldiers entered a part of the Halochhanti Mon Refugee Camp called Kwan Sava Village early Thursday, the Mon National Relief Committee (MNRC) said in a statement. The camp is near Three Pagoda Pass on the Thai-Burmese border. It said the soldiers, from the 62nd Infantry Battalion, then marched on the main camp two kilometres away. A Thai Foreign Ministry official told AFP that 5,000 Mons had fled the Halochhanti camp. But he said they were not forced out and another 3,000 residents remained there. He could not confirm a report that the soldiers set Kwan Sava on fire. The MNRC said it believes the soldiers also wanted to conscript Mons to act as porters and also wanted to put pressure on the New Mon State Party, which is holding ceasefire talks with Burma's military regime. Most of the Mon refugees were repatriated from Thailand early this year.

side world." Added Mr. Prasong's deputy, Surin Pitsuwan: "It's an opening in the process of consolation." Any talks would give Burma "a chance to express their own concerns. I think the world should welcome that." Mr. Abhisit acknowledged that progress on Burma's constitution and the treatment of ethnic minorities was "not as fast as we would have liked to see." But, he said, "compared to the fact that Myanmar (Burma) has been isolated or been alienated for a long period of time, I think there has been strong evidence to show that this (constructive engagement) policy is working," he said. Among participants at the ASEAN meeting hailing the news was Cambodia's ambassador to Thailand Roland Eng, who said the move had created "a dynamic atmosphere" for the conference. Cambodia, which is attending ASEAN as a "special guest of the host country," has indicated it would take a neutral stand outside

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
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Fax: 66183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Noble cause of democracy

WASHINGTON SEEMS to be poised to militarily intervene in Haiti in a bid to restore democracy to the country and reinstate elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. This is fine. The protection of democracy and human rights is a noble cause that deserves all the efforts necessary for this purpose including the use of force. What adds urgency to the Haitian problem is the deterioration of the situation in that country to the extent that wave after wave of Haitians are seeking asylum in the U.S. and in this process hundreds have lost their lives.

Washington's policy on granting such freedom-seekers refugee status has been anything but steady or consistent, thus exacerbating even more the plight of these people torn between running away from tyranny to a promise of a better life under conditions of freedom.

Still the moral issue that the U.S. and the international community is pondering is whether democracy can be imposed by outsiders and on what basis. The world would surely become a better place if democratic governments are rewarded and undemocratic ones punished. The first rule that needs to be adhered to in this context is not to be selective. Double standards in the application of this standard would no doubt undermine the effort no matter how sincere and well-intentioned it might be. Unfortunately there are more countries than one cares to count which are anything but democratic. The immediate issue is whether the international community would target one country and not others. As long as there is a constant return in fighting off dictatorships anywhere in the world then there is room for accepting the doctrine. But then, can a country devoid of democratic tradition be transformed into a democratic one overnight and by military intervention? Democracy needs to be cultivated and nurtured. People yearning for democracy should expect support both political, economic and even military conditions warrant it. The U.S. determination to bring back President Aristide to power can only guarantee the beginning of the process of democratisation in Haiti. It cannot assure a quick jump into full democracy. Yet this modest start is a necessary first step because with it there can be no hope for further steps. The world must start somewhere and Haiti is as good as any place for beginning this process provided it is consistent and nonselective.

THE PRESS COMMENTARIES

ANALYST in Al Ra'i daily said that the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are adopting an attitude which would eventually lead the world organisation to a state where the League of Nations would be the only one left standing and seeking to dominate the world of the other nations. Tareq Masarweh, citing the council's decision to retain the sanctions on Iraq, said that the U.N. embargo is kept in place not because the world is unwilling to force the Iraqis to comply with the council's resolutions but rather to prevent the Iraqis from leaving their oil and so protect the interests of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which should sell oil to buy American weapons and American telephone systems. Accusing the council members of inhuman action and meanness, the writer said that the world organisation has transformed itself into a tool for the benefit of the world powers to starve 17 million people and to offer service to American companies. The writer said that the council member nations are to be held responsible for the world organisation and its policies because they continue to follow a policy of serving their own interests and not the international community.

AS LONG as the people of Gaza remain hungry, the flame of rebellion is bound to burn more brightly and strongly while the oppressed people continue the struggle for freedom, said Ahmad Arafat, a writer in Al Ra'i daily. Judging from the way the world has been reacting with indifference to the events in Gaza, there seems little concern on the part of the world community in general and the Arab world in particular over the fate of the oppressed people fighting for their freedom and shedding their blood daily to achieve that goal, said the writer. Had there been any concern, millions of dollars would have poured into the Gaza Strip to help the inhabitants, said the writer. The world continues to watch the Israelis' actions in the occupied Arab territories. The world must continue to provide the Israelis with the means to continue their occupation of Arab land, added the writer.

Jordanian Perspective

Jordan committed to a peace that caters to national priorities

MONDAY's meeting in Washington between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin crowns a week of unprecedented landmark meetings between Jordanians and Israelis in the region under the glare of television cameras, setting in motion an irreversible process of peace between the two neighbours after more than 45 years of conflict.

The acceleration in the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations was in fact overdue. The Kingdom, living up to its pan-Arab commitments, had been holding itself back so long, to the point that any further delay in advancing on a course to protect its own national rights could in fact have had adverse impact on its national interests.

To be sure, not everyone in Jordan is behind the course of peace that our leadership has opted for. But it is abundantly clear that a vast majority of Jordanians, long resigned to considering politics before anything else while pursuing their daily life, supports the opportunity to put behind the era of conflict, bloodshed and tension and turn a new page where their full potential could be put into use for themselves as well as their country.

To say the least, the trilateral meeting at the Dead Sea, where Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in his capacity as the foreign minister of Jordan was impressive both in form and content. It was not simply a ceremony to launch a process of normalisation of relations between Jordan and Israel. Rather, it was an occasion to state publicly for both sides, with American support, their firm commitment to peace with honour. It also offered an opportunity to have a glimpse into the past and tell our younger generation that Jordan's option for peace did not come today but that the Kingdom's founder was the pioneer of the concept of peaceful coexistence in the region.

Mr. Peres' speech, interspersed with philosophy and facts, and his repeated tribute to our late founder, King Abdullah, and His Majesty King Hussein as having carried

the torch of wisdom based on logic, reason and pragmatism, touched the inner chords of many Jordanians. But that does not mean that everything was suddenly turned to fine and dandy in Jordanian-Israeli relations.

No doubt, those words were expected, given that the Dead Sea encounter represented a historic occasion for the Israelis. For them it was the first public and official acceptance by Jordanians of Israelis as a people in the region. This should explain the euphoria that was evident in the words of every Israeli who attended the Dead Sea meeting, whether from the media or otherwise, and his/her anxiety to use every moment of the occasion to gain further measures of recognition and legitimacy (the simplest indicator to the Israeli thinking was the eagerness that dozens of Israelis showed in trying to pose for photographs with every Jordanian at the Dead Sea. Many Jordanians were indeed obliging).

Quite simply, whether Israel would like to say it in public or not, it was a magnanimous gesture on Jordan's part not to have maintained the Dead Sea trilateral meeting as a formal occasion with stiff collars and to treat it as an occasion to highlight the desire of the two people to live with security and stability, away from tension and violence, based on honourable peace.

Those Israelis who might want to insist on their "superiority" over all others in the world would be well-advised to realise that what Jordan and Jordanians offered them on the shores of the Dead Sea was a clear reaffirmation of the acceptance of Israel in the region and the Israelis as a people. Needless to say, it was hard for Jordan and the Jordanians to do so, given the suffering they underwent as a result of Israel's expansionist policies and the usurpation of Arab rights.

But they did so with high hopes that the goodwill and sincerity that they have would be reciprocated in the same spirit that the sentiments were offered, and Israel would be willing and forthcoming not only to accept and acknow-

ledge that Arab rights have been trampled upon but also to work out in all seriousness a comprehensive solution to the fundamental conflict.

Israel would be better off realising that the welcome and hospitality that Jordan and Jordanians offered to Mr. Peres and those who accompanied him to the Dead Sea did not mean that Jordan was stepping off the "Arab wagon" to kiss and make up with the Jewish state. It was only a signal that Jordan is ready to discuss peace based on the legitimate rights of all people in the region and the return to the Arabs of their rights usurped by Israel.

No doubt, it has now been established that there is a new school of political thought in Jordan which is determined not to repeat the mistake of wasted opportunities. It believes that aberrations should not be the rule but an exception.

The voices of opposition that we hear against the very concept of coexistence are the reflection of the level of democracy that we have managed to attain in a relatively short period of time. Those who look at statements issued by political parties and draw from them their summation of how many Jordanians support the peace process might also be well off to realise that the voices behind those statements are a minority.

Mr. Peres' flowery words at the Dead Sea were at best reassuring to Jordanians in that they indicated that Israel is willing to accept an honourable settlement with the Kingdom and live up to it. But, lest the Israeli leaders forget, there is a long way ahead of us. Jordan will not bargain its territorial and water rights, and any talk of interaction in any area should be preceded by a satisfactory solution to the Kingdom's territorial claims and demand for the return for its water rights.

Furthermore, normalisation of relations between Jordan and Israel is not simply round the corner. Jordan is indeed committed to a negotiated peace, but not at the expense of the rights of its Arab brethren.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Root causes to conflict should be dealt with for the sake of lasting peace

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE JORDANIAN-Israeli talks, the peace process, the massacre at the Erez checkpoint, Arab and domestic affairs were the main features in the columnists' articles and editorials of the Arabic press in the past week.

In comments on the Wadi Araba talks between the Israeli and Jordanian delegations, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that a new era of peace and stability in the Middle East can only start when the Israelis prove by deed rather than by word the good intentions expressed by their delegates.

Mahmoud Rimawi said that Israel's historical record abounds with criminal actions committed against the Palestinians and with stealing of Arab lands and water resources stressing that this record would not be erased except through the restoration of the usurped rights.

He said that Israel ought to conduct a complete reversal of its aggressive policies and prove through new conduct and practice that it is oriented towards peace.

In the view of Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, the Jordanian-Israeli talks at Wadi Araba and the Dead Sea should not surprise any one. Neither should people be astonished to see Israeli and Jordanian delegations holding talks about future peace because the Arabs could not regain their usurped lands over the past four decades nor were they able to end the divisions that rendered them weak and unable to stand up to the Israeli aggression, said

These views were echoed by Mohammad Kawash in

the writer. However, he said, the result of the negotiations should not necessarily be disastrous for the Arabs who can and must pursue serious efforts to regain their lost rights.

Asserting that it is Israel that should make concessions so that peace can be established, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that peace means stability and tranquility as well as reconstruction which would put an end to the sufferings of the Arab people.

Mohammad Qudrah said that Israel should remove its obstacles in the path of peace by giving the Arabs their rights and their water and by repatriating the displaced Palestinians who, he said, were forcibly evicted from their own homeland. The Arabs did not occupy Israeli land and therefore the Israelis ought to meet the requirements of peace by returning to the lawful owners their usurped rights, said the writer.

Al Dustour daily, in an editorial, expressed optimism that the Jordanian-Israeli talks would pave the ground for peace. But the paper said that it is up to Israel to see peace dominating the region because it is up to it to give back the rights it had usurped for decades. The wishes for peace and stability as expressed by the Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the Dead Sea hotel would remain mere dreams unless the Jewish state translated the words into deeds, said the paper.

Mohammad Subeili, a columnist in Al Dustour daily, said optimists expecting millions of dollars to pour onto the region following the signing of a peace treaty should pause a little and take a view at the Egyptian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

One can learn a lesson

from those agreements which entailed mere pledges on the part of the United States to provide assistance that never came, said the writer. The Egyptians are living in worse conditions than ever before despite the meagre economic aid they are receiving while the Palestinians are still awaiting the promised assistance for the self-rule areas that is still to come, noted the writer.

Fahd Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said it is true that many people oppose the current Jordanian-Israeli negotiations but they ought to come up with an alternative formula enabling the Kingdom to regain its lost property.

The writer said the Arab Nation has failed to wage a military campaign to regain its usurped lands and it would be disastrous for the nation to lie idle and not to pursue any kind of efforts to regain the lost territory. It would not be a crime for the Arabs to try to regain their lost land at a time when they watch the Israelis continuing to expand geographically and demographically at the expense of the Arab countries, concluded the writer.

Hamadeh Farasneh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, described those responsible for the explosion at the Jewish centre in Buenos Aires as having offered a precious service to the Zionist organisations.

The writer said that the blast has offered the world Zionists the chance to drum up the campaign against the Arabs and Muslims, describing them as terrorists and accusing them

of taking away the lives of innocent people. We ought to denounce the blast as a criminal action for political, religious, national and humanitarian reasons so as to forestall any attempts on the part of world Zionism to stick the terrorist act to the Arab and Muslim people, demanded the writer.

George Haddad, a columnist in Al Dustour, cast a gloomy view at the Jordanian-Israeli talks, stressing that what is imposed on the Arabs is a mere Israeli formula for peace that would not be beneficial to the Arabs in any way. What is been cooked is a new Middle East order to replace the Arab order which would be in the interests of the Zionists alone, said the writer. A peace imposed by the Israeli enemy, he added, is a continuous act of war on the Arab Nation.

Reflecting on the massacre of Arab workers at the Erez checkpoint in Gaza, Walid Abu Baker, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that it was a very dangerous development that demonstrated the hidden intentions of the Israeli authorities. The confrontation at the checkpoint clearly indicate that clashes are bound to flare up any moment as long as the Israelis continue to occupy Arab land and control the destiny of the Arab people, said the writer.

Hunger is a time bomb, said Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, in describing the outburst of clashes between Israelis and Arabs at the Erez checkpoint.

The writer said that

N. Korea says talks on Aug. 5

(Continued from page 1)

July 8 but was suspended the following day when news broke of the death of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung.

The United States was trying to get Pyongyang to abandon plans to build nuclear weapons in return for diplomatic and economic concessions, including help in shifting to less threatening light-water nuclear technology.

In Seoul on Thursday, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci and South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo agreed their countries should "actively assist" Pyongyang to upgrade its nuclear reactor if it gave up any nuclear arms ambitions.

The world has been closely watching events in North Korea since Kim's death to see if his hand-picked successor, his eldest son, Kim Jong-Il, would be challenged and if he would pursue the policies of his father.

In North Korea on Wednesday, the ruling elite publicly swore allegiance to Kim Jong-Il.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord said on Wednesday that while he was confident the North Koreans would resume the Geneva talks quickly, it was a mystery how they would go and what other policies Pyongyang might pursue.

The late Kim issued a "precious instruction" concerning the reunification of the two Koreas, just hours before he died on July 8, official southern monitors quoted North Korean radio as saying Friday.

"Kim Il-Sung gave the precious instruction only hours before his heart stopped beating," the monitors quoted the broadcast as saying, adding that the radio did not elaborate on the date, time and content of the "instruction."

North Korea has said that Kim, who had long set 1995 as a date for the reunification

PLO demands Jerusalem talks

(Continued from page 1)

and my responsibility to offer the invitations... in the Holy City. This is the jurisdiction of the Palestinians."

In another development, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in the highest-level visit to Gaza since Palestinian self-rule began, urged Mr. Arafat on Thursday to better account for the way foreign aid is spent.

Their talks, during Mr. Christopher's current week-long Middle East peace mission, focused on Arafat's troubles getting donor countries to meet pledges of millions of dollars for Gaza and Jericho.

"We discussed the details of economic help, and Mr. Christopher promised to support us to the donors and the World Bank," Mr. Arafat told a news conference (see page 2).

But Mr. Christopher said: "The donors require documentation. We are very anxious to help (the Palesti-

nians) understand the need for documentation." He said Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Joan Spero would stay on for further talks with Mr. Arafat.

In Cairo, Israel and the PLO agreed on Wednesday that Palestinians would have control over education in the West Bank, officials said.

Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said the Palestinian self-rule authority was to ask Mr. Christopher to help resolve other disputes with Israel.

Israeli chief negotiator Major-General Danny Rothchild said before he returned to Israel that Palestinians

could decide how to run their education system.

"It was a fruitful meeting... within the sphere of education they (Palestinians) are going to get control, to decide everything that needs to be decided on the educational sphere."

"As far as education is concerned we made a good progress and there are very few problems left to be worked on next week, so we are taking them back home with us and the Palestinians are taking them back home with them and hopefully they will be able to conclude them next week," Gen. Rothchild added.

(Continued from page 1)

"We agreed to increase the number of workers from 20,000 to 30,000" said Ziad Al Atrash, Palestinian head of the security liaison committee between the self-rule authority and Israel. He was referring to the number of worker permits Israel agreed to issue to Palestinians.

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A scene from the musical satire "The Will," performed Thursday at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

The angles, intentions of Mansour Rahabani's 'The Will'

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Don't give the permission to sell" is a very important and basic sentence in "The Will." Repeated every now and then throughout the play, the command refers to selling one's own land, one's own self, or one's own values.

"The Will," which was performed for the first time last summer at George V Theatre in Beirut, and lasted for three consecutive weeks, is a musical satire. Its main plot is social, but its details and intentions sound political.

The two sets in the play consisted of the entrance of the lead character's (played by Ghassan Slaiba) house, and the bar where he frequents and where he falls in love with his beautiful proprietor.

The first scene develops around a 70-year-old rich man who is gravely ill. He has one wife and child, and his nephews pray for him to die so as to inherit his estate.

The old man writes a will stipulating that if he dies before the age of 80 his fortune will go to charity, but if he lives to be an octogenarian his nephews will reap his fortunes.

Outside his house, his nephews discuss the will, but their words carry ironic meanings. There are hidden references to political issues, Cuba, Castro, the right wing, revolt, and CIA.

After the will is made known to the family, the conflict begins between the charity societies and the old man's relatives. The first party, hoping for the man's early death, works towards it; while the second party strives to keep the uncle alive for 10 more years.

The female lead Zina, played by Huda, the sister of Lebanese vocalist Fairuz, sings many songs throughout the play to serve certain theatrical purposes as well as entertain the audience.

Zina loves someone who works in a charity society, but the love is not reciprocal. Zina's love interest tries to benefit from her honest love.

But Zina discovers his intentions, so she leaves him for the old man with the fortune in mind.

The play ends with Zina winning and the two feuding parties retreating when their scenarios fail.

The music is spontaneously injected with a fanfare of rifles, cries of applause, and the sudden entrance of a fat Mexican man.

Playing a self-appointed mark visit to Jordan on Wednesday to attend the Dead Sea meeting of the U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli trilateral commission along with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who is also foreign minister, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

That meeting was preceded by two days of negotiations between Jordan and Israel in the Wadi Araba desert that produced Israeli agreements to address Jordan's territorial and water claims.

On Thursday, the King visited the Prime Ministry and reviewed with the Cabinet Jordanian moves towards peace and his meeting with Mr. Rabin.

"We cannot lag behind others and delay assuming our responsibilities and duty towards our people," the King told the Cabinet in reference to the accelerated pace in the Jordanian-Israeli track of the Middle East peace process which also involves the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon.

arbitrator, he convinces the fortune seekers to come to a compromise deal. Needless to say the compromise is not without some material gain for himself.

The Mexican relies on military force to get the parties to agree.

When the deal is signed orally, he makes everyone sing and dance to a Mexican folk song, and the parties do so with pleasure.

The audience may notice that the characters who work in the charity societies are thieves. They are used to spending charity funds for their own benefit.

More of less, the play refers to the Arab World, Arab governments that depend on oil-Arab countries for solutions to their internal and regional problems and crises.

The play blames the new world's order for corruption everywhere.

"Arts can be explained in many different ways. I don't like to put the audience inside the jail of my viewpoints. Art is not a kind of goods, or a political speech that has only one meaning. Each one of the audience may look at the play from a different angle and may see various ideas and thoughts. So, the same artistic work may bear many explanations. For this reason, I will not state what my real intentions are," Mansour Rahabani, author of the play, told the Jordan Times.

"Man, freedom, and change are the most important factors in our lives. But, the new world, the new systems in the world, believe in torture, war, and do not support peace processes. All of them killed Man, killed freedom and killed peace," said Mr. Rahabani.

The playwright studied music for fifteen years, as well as philosophy and history. He believes that music alone is not enough to produce a masterpiece. Knowledge of music should go with general knowledge.

"I am positive that no country around the world can succeed in writing or producing a good musical play like this one except the Anglo-Saxons. They are better than us in the technical side only, which is definitely related to financing."

"But, we are better than them in all other matters of arts: music, dance, and dialogue."

The play was directed by Nicola Daniel.

It was vivacious, colourful, full of melodies and folkloric dances, and the characters succeeded in capturing the audience.

"Jordan is on the path towards an honourable, just and durable peace," the King said. "The current developments in the Jordanian-Israeli track are not a mere coincidence but reflect a clear decision on safeguarding higher national interests."

The prolonged Middle East conflict, he said, has led to a state of instability and absence of peace as part of Arab heritage and culture.

"Jordan must accustom itself to a new pattern of thinking oriented towards peace which should benefit all peoples of the region and guarantee security and peace for them," the King said.

The King also voiced appreciation of the government and its approach to achieving higher national interests.

The Council of Ministers expressed absolute support for the King's endeavours and stressed strong commitment and united support behind his leadership.

By Christopher McDougall
The Associated Press

BUTARE, Rwanda — How did a young band of Tutsi guerrillas turn the tables on government troops and murderous Hutu militias and blaze from exile to victory?

Fight, fade and confuse. Those are the laws the guerrilla army lives by.

And the young rebels in castoff fatigues, plastic shades and high-top sneakers learned from 12 years in hiding the less you say, the longer you live.

A month ago, if you asked rebel Commander Major Wilson "Cybonye" Rutayisire how many fighters he had in the field, he'd smile and say, "perhaps many."

But since then, the rebels have beaten a government army that had better fortifications, weapons and air power and forced more than 100,000 hardened Hutu militias to drop their machetes and skulk into hiding.

Flush with victory, the Rwandan Patriotic Front, today 20,000 strong, is now more than willing to explain how they did it.

"Go back to 1959," said Cybonye, his name de guerre. Tutsis were no more than 15 per cent of the central African nation but, as the country's traditional leaders, lorded over the majority Hutus.

"But Belgium was the real ruler, and instead of uniting against the common colonial enemy, Hutu attacked Tutsi and sent many of us into exile," said Cybonye.

In refugee camps in neighbouring Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda, the first Tutsi revolutionary cadres were

born. Called "inyenzi," or "cockroaches," they stole into Rwanda on small hit-and-run raids from across the border.

"Ah, it was miserable," Cybonye winced. Untrained and disorganised, the only thing the inyenzi accomplished was to irritate the Hutus to even further attacks, which drove more Tutsis into exile.

Soundly whipped, the Tutsis gave up their arms, until 20 years later, when the children of the first refugees picked them up again. "We were born in refugee camps. We had no schools, no jobs, no land, nothing. We had nothing to lose," said the slight, 24-year-old major, taking a swig of orange soda.

So when Ugandan rebel leader Yoweri Museveni launched his guerrilla movement against Idi Amin, many of the young Tutsis took to the hush with him.

The young Rwandans quickly became renowned as fierce fighters, said Francis Besesego, a Ugandan safari guide before the war.

"Everyone in Uganda heard about those boys, but nobody wanted to meet them."

When Mr. Museveni finally seized control of Uganda in 1986, 3,000 of his officers were Rwandan Tutsis. They waited four more years, gathering skill and weapons, then deserted en masse to launch an attack on their mother country.

"Another disaster," said Cybonye, noting the rebels-in-exile didn't know the lay of the land and had no support from the people.

But after the rebel commander was killed in the first battle, and the next two generals killed in the second,

the rebels had to find a way to fight for maximum gain with minimum casualties. It was back to the hills.

"We abandoned heavy weapons and went to guerrilla tactics — ambush, surprise attacks, always on foot with mortars and small weapons," Cybonye said. "We came down from the volcanic cliffs before dawn, attacked, and were gone."

There was one vital lesson: never, never mistreat civilians, who could provide food, information and cover.

A raid on Ruhengeri prison in February of 1991 was a master stroke. Besides freeing hundreds of political and common criminals, many of whom became grateful new recruits, the rebels became overnight heroes.

The humiliating raid inspired Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana to begin negotiations that led to a peace treaty in 1993. But it also led him to form his Hutu militias, known as Interahamwe, or "those who attack together."

Habyarimana died in an unexplained plane crash on April 6, and within hours Interahamwe across the country were slaughtering Tutsi men, women and children.

"We had to move fast," said Cybonye. "We had to fight like guerrillas, but hold territory and protect our people as well."

The rebels launched a new offensive, blitzing down from their mountain hideaway, outnumbering and surrounding an enemy target, then leaving minimum troops to hold them and secretly moving the rest on to the next target.

"That's how we won Kigali



Tutsi refugees from the southwestern Rwandan town of Butare reaching the city limits of Gikongoro. Butare was seized by the Rwandan Patriotic Front at the beginning of the month (AFP)

one day, and three days later we were advancing 90 miles away — half our troops had already gone there."

The rebels never deviated

from their stingy use of troops. "We surrounded the army, shelled them for several days, then, as if by accident,

opened an escape route," said Cybonye. "A trapped enemy is dangerous — a fleeing enemy is easy to hit."

Hong Kong's modest pension plan under attack

By Jonathan Sprague
Reuters

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's plan for an old-age pension scheme may be modest, but its many opponents have denounced it as a budgetary time bomb and an attempt to impose a Western welfare state on a proud Asian society.

Academics, the business community and Beijing all gave the government's proposals a hostile reception, with some saying they will erode the Chinese tradition that children should care for elderly parents and not look to the state for help.

Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten denies the scheme will stifle the Hong Kong ethic of hard work, self-reliance and minimum government on which the British colony has hauled itself from the third to the first

world in only a few decades.

"Nobody can regard this as an extremely expensive disincentive for business or as a socialist burden which Hong Kong is going to have to carry. It's prudent. It's responsible. It's compassionate," Mr. Patten told reporters.

"Some people suggest that this is the creation of a welfare state in Hong Kong, it's the beginning of a slippery slope. I do think people should just have a look at the figures."

The plan, announced this month, proposes contributions of 1.5 per cent of wages from both workers and employers and offers pensions of Hong Kong dollars 2,300 (\$295) a month to people over 65.

Mr. Patten noted the scheme would cost only 1.5 per cent of Hong Kong's gross domestic product —

which per head of population has passed Britain's — against an average of 15 per cent in many Western states.

Officially, the plan is only a proposal, which if accepted by the community will not go into force until at least 1997, the year Hong Kong returns to China.

Old people mostly welcomed the proposals, with reservations about the long wait till they come into force and the low level of pensions — \$295 a month does not go far in the colony.

But as usual they were drowned out by the colony's business community, which fears Hong Kong will make the same mistake as the West — creating a welfare state during times of high economic growth only to find out later the plans are unaffordable.

"What happens if there's a downturn in the Hong Kong

economy? You've still got to pay out the money to elderly people but your income will be down," said Ian Perkin, chief economist of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Patten said he has written to Chinese officials and hopes to win their approval for the proposals.

But Beijing has attacked them through local newspapers it controls, and the possible implementation date is also the year Hong Kong becomes a special administrative region of China.

"Following inflation, contributions needed by the scheme will be bigger and bigger," said one such paper, the Wen Wei Po. "By that time, the future special administrative region government will be burdened by a debt mountain and the British would not give a damn."

Apart from money, the

question arises: Is a compulsory pension scheme alien to Chinese culture?

"This will not make Hong Kong a welfare state, but certainly it is a departure from welfare policy the government has adopted all along," said Professor Nelson Chow of Hong Kong University. "I think it's very Western... not congenial to Chinese culture."

"Most children, after they marry and have their own family, are still prepared to support their elderly parents. This is a tradition which we should not abandon so easily," he added.

But Hong Kong is facing similar social changes to the West. The proportion of people over 60 years has risen from about five per cent 20 years ago to around 15 per cent today.

As in many prosperous societies, the extended family

is making way for the nuclear family and relatives are not caring for the elderly as well as in the past.

A glance around the region indicates that the Hong Kong plan is not simply a case of a British colonial government trying to impose its values on a Chinese population.

In Taiwan, a Chinese society ruled by Chinese, thousands of older citizens marched last month to demand pensions for everyone over 65.

Singapore, whose elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew champions "Asian values," has one of the most comprehensive welfare systems in the region.

Under the Central Provident Fund (CPF) scheme, set up as long ago as 1955, Singaporeans have to save 20 per cent of their pay and employers have to match that amount.

Lloyds expected at Aqaba

(Continued from page 1)

of the offshore inspections by the Lloyds-operated, land-based verification regime to be in place in one month, diplomatic sources say it might take longer before all formalities are "satisfactorily" concluded and the U.S. withdraws its frigates from the Red Sea.

"The precise sequence of the events running up to the departure of the American ships has to be coordinated with the United States and the United Nations," said a diplomat.

It took Jordan more than three years of repeated complaints, coupled with international lobbying, as well as suspension of the Kingdom's role in the Middle East peace process before the U.S.

accepted in principle the concept of a neutral international agency like Lloyds Register observing the Kingdom's adherence to the sanctions.

Jordanian officials say that the Lloyds Register presence at Aqaba would in no way infringe upon Jordan's sovereign rights and that the surveyors would only work with Ports Corporation and customs officials to ensure that all incoming and outgoing cargo comply with their shipping manifests.

Goods destined for Iraq would be treated separately in line with the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and would not be allowed to leave the quay side until all conditions laid down by the U.N. are satisfied.

Jordan Valley plan

from Jordanian and Israeli proposals presented in earlier negotiations. The final draft form of the plan was prepared by American officials incorporating compromises between Israeli and Jordanian proposals, diplomats said.

For instance, they said, Israel had come up with a counter proposal for a project to link the Red Sea with the Dead Sea along the same lines of a proposal that Jordan had submitted. The U.S. is believed to have drawn components from both proposals and turned them into a project that takes into consideration both sides.

"We look forward with anticipation and with high expectations to the trilateral summit," Dr. Haddadin told reporters after the meeting.

He was referring to Monday's summit in Washington which will be attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Israeli negotiators who attended the Dead Sea meeting were also upbeat and comments by Eitan Ben-Tsur, a senior foreign ministry official, indicated that one of the Jewish state's priorities was the Red Sea-Dead Sea canal, agency reports from occupied Jerusalem said.

On the overall master plan for the Jordan Valley, Mr. Ben-Tsur was quoted as saying: "This is such a rich plan, so full, that if every component of it is realised, it will qualitatively change the situation of the region."

According to Mr. Ben-Tsur, the plan would be "declared ceremoniously" at the Washington summit.

PRIZES FOR YOUNG JORDANIAN SCIENTISTS

"Trying Is Winning"

Working toward enhancing scientific manpower in Jordan, prizes for young scientists are now granted for Jordanians by the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in collaboration with the Royal Scientific Society. Submission for these prizes is open till October 1994.

Prizes are awarded every year rotating among three fields of pure science: **Biology, Mathematics and Physics. Young Jordanian scientists are now invited to apply for the TWAS PRIZE** which amounts to \$2,000.

So, if you are a Jordanian, resident in Jordan, and of an age not exceeding 40 years, we will be glad to receive your contribution in any of the three fields specified above, taking into consideration that submission is open till October 1994. We are ready to provide you with any additional information about the rules & mechanism of submission. Interested applicants are kindly requested to contact **Mrs. Majd Khayyat Talhouni** at the following address:

**The TWAS Unit
Royal Scientific Society
P.O. Box 925819
Amman - Jordan
Fax: 844806
Tel.: 844701
Telex: 21276 RAMAH JO**

Geneva beats Bonn for seat of new world trade body

Staying in Geneva, it indicated, would also help ensure that the transition to the WTO — which also has to make a much more difficult choice of who will be its director general — would be as smooth as possible.

Creation of the WTO was the centrepiece of the final act of the seven-year Uruguay Round negotiations, signed by well over 100 countries in Morocco in April. The accord has yet to be ratified by major powers, including the United States.

The WTO will gradually absorb the GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which has had its headquarters in Geneva since its foundation in

The Prepcom said Geneva was preferred because it was already host to other international organisations with which the WTO will have to

shed '95 d

the period in question, to assuage some of the need for cuts.

Berlusconi's team also adopted a number of measures presented by Labour Minister Clemente Mastella

to boost the employment market. His package involves setting a maximum of 12 months for fixed-term contracts and various schemes to lighten the burden on firms of taking on extra employees.

This report, which covers the week from Thursday July 14, 1994 until Wednesday July 20, 1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

at least the June lows — and perhaps the April lows — is coming to an end.

Medium term momentum oscillators, however, remain fairly strong, suggesting that any upcoming correction should be mild. Viewed as counter trends in nature, such a correction should still be able to carry to at least 1.564-1.58, and perhaps 1.60. Last week's strength implies a test of 1.48-1.52, and an eventual test of the 1992 high at 1.39 cannot be ruled out. Against the yen, the D-mark has again failed to penetrate the top end of its May-July trading range near 64. Support is at 59-60. Above the trading range, resistance exists in the area of 65-66.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The U.S. dollar rally during the week caused the British pound to trade lower, down to U.S.\$/GBP 1.54. The bigger rally of the U.S.\$ against the DM caused the pound to trade higher against the DM, up to DM/GBP 2.43. The pound is currently trading in the range of our 3 month forecast. Our longer-term outlook is that the pound trends upwards against the dollar to U.S.\$/GBP 1.60 in 6 months and 1.63 in 12-months time. Against the mark, we expect the pound to recover some lost ground and trade near DM/GBP 2.45 in 12-months time, though we do not rule out further near-term weakness as suggested by our 6 month forecast of DM/GBP of 2.40. The fundamentals augur well for the pound in the longer term.

Our interest rate forecast is that in 12 months, U.K. yields spread against Germany will be 175 basis points for money market instruments (3-month) and 150 B.P. for 10-year bonds. The second quarter GDP numbers are expected to reveal that output was up over 3 per cent on the corresponding period last year. The public sector borrowing requirement for June at 2.86 billion pounds was 1 billion lower than expected and down 1.5 billion pounds from the May figure.

Technical view: The British pound gained 0.8% versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended July 15. The currency continues to test the upper end of its long term trading range and in turn, the 1993-1994 high at \$1.586 U.S.\$/L. Sentiment is at its most overbought level since September 1992. Medium term momentum is constructive. However, short term momentum is peaking, so the currency could well be under near term pressure.

First support exists near \$1.51, the lower end of the trading range. \$1.46 is the next support. The DM cross moved to its lowest level since May 14, 1994. While the DM cross momentum confirmed the lows, it is now old and from a

Peanuts

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S.M.

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Andy Capp

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 23, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: all those tasks done which are important to you. Strive for increased happiness.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take time to put your business and financial affairs in better order. Be sure to keep promises you have

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Being with friends and improving the association is fine today. Take pains to handle routine takes in an efficient manner.

T A U R U S: (April 20 to May 20) Show appreciation to those who have power over our affairs and gain further goodwill. Use modern methods to improve your endeavors.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) See what you can do about enlarging your vision so that you can advance in your line of endeavour. Be wise to any situation which comes up.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take no risks with your health at this time. Handle responsibilities more efficiently and they will become easier.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Support those associates who need your assistance at this time. Listen to complaints of family members and give help where needed to show you care.

THE EVENING IS FINE FOR SOCIAL PLEASURES YOU HAVE A DESIRE FOR.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are able to communicate well with associates.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have to be more enthused if you are to get

THE Daily Crossword by Mahin Karmath

ACROSS

[illegible][illegible]

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York CLOSING Rate: 21/7/94	Tokyo CLOSING Rate: 21/7/94
Sterling Pound	1.5465	1.5468
Deutsche Mark	1.5639	1.5607
Swiss Franc	1.3190	1.3186
French Franc	5.3630	5.3510**
Japanese Yen	98.69	98.68
European Currency Unit	1.2190	1.2234**

100 Per 100
European Opening - 9:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.16	4.50	4.93	5.31
Sterling Pound	4.87	5.00	5.25	5.87
Deutsche Mark	4.62	4.62	4.62	4.75
Swiss Franc	3.57	3.93	4.06	4.25
French Franc	5.37	5.43	5.50	5.75
Japanese Yen	1.57	1.93	2.00	2.18
European Currency Unit	5.68	5.75	5.93	6.12

Interbank, bid rates for overnight, 1-3 months, 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Aid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6980
Sterling Pound	1.0691	1.0744
Deutsche Mark	0.4425	0.4447
Swiss Franc	0.5521	0.5567
French Franc	0.1290	0.1296
Japanese Yen	0.6995	0.7030
Dutch Guilder	0.3944	0.3964
Swedish Krona	0.0444	0.0446
Italian Lira	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc	0.0444	0.0446

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6170	1.8350
Lebanese Lira	0.040825	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1840	0.1860
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3200	2.3750
Qatari Riyal	0.1878	0.1890
Egyptian Pound	0.2040	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7780	1.8000
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1890
Greek Drachma	0.2165	0.3175
Cypriot Pound	1.3565	1.4650

Per 100

AFM advances on peace moves

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The accelerated moves to the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations last week had an immediate impact on the Amman Financial Market (AFM), particularly the announcement that His Majesty King Hussein would meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington on July 25, brokers said Friday.

The weekly turnover in the market nearly tripled to JD 14.2 million and the general share price index rose by seven points, or 5.22 points, to close at 153.76 points, the weekly report of the market showed.

Brokers said the rise in the index did not reflect the actual improvement in the market since the index is based on 60 major listed companies in the market. They said smaller companies which had been steadily losing since the beginning of the year had posted a significant recovery, raising the average price increase over last year to more than seven per cent.

(Similarly, brokers said, the index had shown a 12-to-13 per cent decline in share prices since the beginning of the year. But the average drop, taking into consideration the smaller companies, was close to 25 per cent.)

Stocks of 77 of the 89 companies whose shares were

traded during the week showed an increase, six showed losses and six remained stable, the report said.

The improvement was more pronounced in the separate industrial stock index, which closed at 142.86 points, up 6.66 per cent. It was followed by the insurance sector, where the index showed a rise of 4.25 per cent to close at 148.02. The services sector index closed at 139.75 points, up 4.05 points, and the banking sector showed an increase of 3.24 per cent when it closed at 164.73 points.

The industrial sector accounted for more than half the week's turnover with JD 6.2 million, followed by commercial banks with JD 4.9 million, the services sector with JD 2.9 million and insurance stock with JD 200,000.

The figures showed a dramatic recovery from the record lows that the market saw in the past weeks, when stagnation was the order of the day, with prices as well as trading dipping.

"Investors were waiting for tangible signs of direct economic benefits for Jordan from the peace process after they saw prospects of Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation fading into the background," said a broker.

"With hopes high that the King's meeting with Rabin will be followed by American help to the Jordanian eco-

nomy, investors have returned to the floor," added the broker, who cannot be identified by name under standing AFM regulations.

One of the key factors behind the dramatic rise in turnover to JD 14.6 million last week from JD 3.8 million in the previous week was attributed to individuals trying to recoup their losses by selling.

"They saw the prices dipping by more than 20 per cent in some cases since the beginning of the year," said the broker. "Many of them opted to sell last week even at a loss

to avoid larger losses." "Bulls are holding back. They believe that stocks are on their way up for some time to come now, and they prefer to hold on, hoping to move in for the kill at a later stage," he added.

Market analysts say that a further surge could be expected at the AFM during the course of the next few weeks when the U.S. Congress is expected to study legislation that allows debt relief for Jordan.

Also expected is American military aid to Jordan.

Jordan, Pakistan finalise \$370m fertiliser project

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Final touches have been given to a \$370 million joint Jordanian-Pakistani industrial project, the first of its kind between the Kingdom and Pakistan which enjoy traditionally close political relations.

The project involves a fertiliser plant to be built in Pakistan to produce 445,000 tonnes diammonium phosphate and 551,000 tonnes of urea every year to meet local Pakistani needs with phosphoric acid supplied from Jordan.

Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Tariq Khan Afridi welcomed the launching of the project as a major breakthrough in Pakistani-Jordanian economic relations.

"Obviously, it is the first major step towards enhancing economic cooperation," Mr. Afridi told the Jordan Times. Pakistan and Jordan "enjoy excellent political relations" for several decades, but the project "is the first tangible evidence" strong economic ties, the ambassador said, adding his country was looking forward to seeing more of similar joint ventures.

The Fauji Jordan Fertiliser Company falls in line with the JPMC's shift in strategy towards focusing on producing fertilisers rather than exporting the raw material — rock phosphates.

A memorandum of understanding was signed on Thursday by Fauji Chairman Imtiaz Warrich and JPMC Director-General Samib Madani, outlining the details of Jordanian exports to the project and other relevant components of the project, which is expected to be operational by the year 1997.

The project is expected to seek international financing for the \$259 million needed to build the project.

Under the agreement signed in 1993, the Fauji Foundation and the JPMC will also build a phosphoric acid plant in Jordan.

At current market prices, the output will be worth around \$160 million.

The initial agreement for the project was signed in January 1993 between the Fauji Foundation of Pakistan and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC).

The Fauji Foundation of a multi-billion giant in Pakistan already operating several fertiliser plants.

The Jan. 24 agreement called for the setting up of the \$11.1 million Fauji-Jordan Fertiliser Company with 30 per cent equity for the Fauji Foundation, 10 per cent for the JPMC and 10 per cent for the Ex-Servicemen Association of Pakistan. The rest of the \$111 million capital will be raised through public share issues next year.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3773/83	Canadian dollar
	1.5933/43	Deutsche marks
	1.7882/92	Dutch guilders
	1.3470/80	Swiss francs
	32.82/86	Belgian francs
	5.4520/70	French francs
	1585.3/6.8	Italian lire
	99.01/11	Japanese yen
	7.8208/08	Swedish crowns
	6.9370/20	Norwegian crowns
	6.2320/70	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5246/56	
One ounce of gold	\$384.20/384.60	

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German trade with South-East Asia booms

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Germany's trade with South East Asia has almost doubled as a proportion of its overall foreign business over the last decade, the Bundesbank said.

The report said the booming markets there for Germany's cars, chemicals and consumer goods were partly compensating for weakening markets with some of its European Union (EU) markets.

"As far as their share in Germany's foreign trade goes, these countries play a more important role in the German economy than certain small countries in the European Community," the report said.

The monthly report showed the proportion of Germany's total trade carried out with South-East Asia increased to 5.50 per cent in 1993 from three per cent at the start of the 1980s.

Exports to the region amounted to 29 billion marks (about \$19 billion) in 1993 compared to seven billion (\$4.5 billion) in 1980, while imports were worth 30 billion marks in 1993 against 11 billion in 1980.

Taiwan ranks as Germany's chief trading partner in the region, followed by South Korea and Hong Kong, said the report.

German products have represented about 3.5 to four per cent of the region's imports over the last decade, compared with 23 per cent for the Japanese and 15 per cent for the Americans.

Graf wins one after her Waterloo at Wimbledon

MAHWAH, N.J. (AP) — Steffi Graf returned to action for the first time since her stunning opening-round loss at Wimbledon and defeated Nicole Provis 6-2, 6-1 in the second round of the Pathmark Tennis Classic Thursday night.

"I felt really good actually," said Graf, who had a first-round bye and had not played in three weeks. "I haven't played much, only the last eight or nine days that I started hitting and working out. I felt pretty good out there."

The layoff was one of the longest of Graf's career and it followed consecutive losses to Mary Pierce in the semifinals of the French Open and to Lori McNeil at Wimbledon.

"I never had three weeks off for a long time," Graf said. "It's a nice change. I had time for myself. That will help the next couple of weeks."

For the record, Graf said she went fishing, strolled on the beach and went to the movies, sometimes twice a day, and even did a little roller blading.

"I did whatever I felt like," the world's top-ranked women's player said.

That trend continued for 49 minutes against Provis, who is ranked about 300 places behind Graf.

While she struggled with her first serve at times, the

25-year-old German had an awesome forehand in beating the Australian in the tournament, which is classified as an exhibition.

Graf will play in a sanctioned tournament next week in San Diego. She will then play in Montreal and an exhibition prior to the U.S. Open.

The Provis-Graf matchup was interesting because Provis last year pulled one of the major surprises by beating Graf in a Federation Cup match. It proved to be Graf's only loss between April and November.

There was no repeat Thursday.

Graf broke Provis twice in the first three games of the opening set, before Provis battled back to make it 3-2. Graf then won the next three to finish off the set, when Provis hit a backhand long on set point.

Graf won the first four games of the second set. She even had some fun in the opening game, running Provis all over the court with lobs to gain an advantage.

By the end of the point even Provis was laughing at her failure.

Graf, a five-time Wimbledon champion, eventually closed out the match with a ripping forehand, cross-court winner.

Graf will play Pam Shriver

in the quarterfinals.

Earlier Thursday, Lisa Raymond advanced to the quarterfinals when sixth-seeded Patty Fendick retired in the second set because of a pulled stomach muscle.

Raymond led 6-4, 4-2 when Fendick was forced to quit in the battle of two-time NCAA champions.

Fendick, 29, who played at Stanford, was not available for comment.

Raymond, who played at Florida, took the first set by breaking Fendick at 15 in the ninth game and then closed out the set by winning at 15 in the next game. The second set was even until Raymond broke in the fifth game for a 3-2 lead and then held at love in the sixth.

In other second-round matches, no. 3 Amanda Coetzer of South Africa defeated At Sugiyama of Japan 6-1, 6-1 in 64 minutes. While no. 8 Marketa Kochta defeated Stephanie Rothier of the Netherlands 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

Kochta, who was born in Prague, won the final two points of the tiebreaker and took command in the second set with a break in the seventh game for a 4-3 lead.

The other quarterfinals pair Raymond and no. 4 Helena Sukova; Kochta and no. 5 Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere and Coetzer.



Steffi Graf

NBA's Carlesimo to debut in Japan

NEW YORK (AP) — P.J. Carlesimo decided to go west when he left Seton Hall for his first NBA coaching job with the Portland Trail Blazers.

He'll be in the Far East, though, when he makes his debut, guiding his team against the Los Angeles Clippers in the opener of a two-game series in Japan.

Carlesimo's first game is one of 12 scheduled on Nov. 4, opening night of the 1994-95 NBA regular season. The 1,107-game schedule, released Thursday, continues through April 23.

The series in Japan, the third time in six years the league has sent teams to Japan for a season-opening series, concludes the following night.

Others highlights on the schedule include:

- Milwaukee at Philadelphia on opening night in a game expected to mark the start of no. 1 draft choice Glen Robinson's career with the Bucks, as well as John Lucas' tenure as coach of the 76ers.
- Charlotte at Chicago, also on opening night, in the first NBA game played in the Bulls' new home, the United Centre.
- New Jersey at Dallas, Nov. 5, in the return of Dick Motta as coach of the Mavericks. Motta, who coached Dallas for its first seven seasons, returns to the bench this season with 856 career wins, fourth in league history.

The first game between the defending champion Houston Rockets and New York Knicks, who lost the finals in seven games, Jan. 19, at Houston.

A rematch between the finalists a month later in a nationally televised Sunday afternoon game at New York.

— A Christmas day doubleheader, which kicks off a 26-game national television package. Seattle is at Denver in the opener, a rematch of last season's first-round playoff series won by the Nuggets, and New York is at Chicago in the second game, a rematch of a second-round series.

— The 45th All-Star game, scheduled for Feb. 12 in Phoenix.

— San Antonio at Philadelphia, March 10, in the first meeting of Lucas' old team, the Spurs, and his new one. The teams meet again six days later at San Antonio.

A regular-season-ending doubleheader, Sunday, April 23.

United States get home advantage in Fed Cup

FRANKFURT, Germany (Agencies) — The United States, who have won the Federation Cup a record 14 times, will face Austria at home in the first round of the new "World Group" when the competition changes its name and format next year.

With "top-ten" players Arantxa Sanchez, Conchita Martinez, Lindsay Davenport, Mary Joe Fernandez and Mary Pierce picking the names out of the famous trophy at the Waldstadion here Friday, the Americans squeaked with delight when they landed a home tie against the Bulgarians for April 22-23.

Called the "Fed Cup" and using a similar format to the men's Davis Cup, teams will in future play four singles and then finish with a doubles over two days.

In the same half of the draw as the Americans, fourth-seeded France also pulled out a home tie against South Africa at a special ceremony attended by scores of players and officials inside the Waldstadion where this year's competition has reached the quarterfinal stage.

Top-seeds Spain, however, will travel to Bulgaria while third-seed Germany play

hosts to Japan.

In Group One, Indonesia will have a home clash against top-seeds Argentina while the Slovak Republic will travel to Australia. And second seeds Netherlands will play away to Sweden while fourth seeds Italy have home advantage against Canada.

The Federation Cup, which was originally launched with 16 nations playing off in London in 1963, has attracted a record entry of 83 nations for 1995.

In its new form, the four first-round losers in the "World Group" will face the four first-round winners of "Group One" to decide the composition of the 1996 World Group.

Similarly, the four first-round losers in "Group One" will play the four winners of the regional qualifying to decide who plays in "Group One" the following year.

All other nations will play in regional qualifying events under Europe/Africa, the Americas and Asia/Oceania. These events will continue to be run on a round-robin basis.

"We are tremendously excited about this new format," said the ITF's Fed Cup Executive Director Debbie

Jevans after the draw.

"We think the new arrangements will make the matches even more exciting for the players and spectators."

On Thursday, the United States, Spain and Bulgaria won both singles and the doubles to advance 3-0 Thursday, qualifying for the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup.

Austria also qualified, winning the singles for 2 points, but losing the doubles against Australia.

France, Japan, Germany and South Africa advanced to the quarterfinals Wednesday.

American Mary Joe Fernandez won the first set 6-0 and was leading the 4-1 in the second set before her Canadian opponent, Helen Kelesi, withdrew with a strained thigh, which was already bandaged before the match started.

Lindsay Davenport of the U.S., ranked sixth by the WTA tour, dominated the second match against Canada's Patricia Hy to win 6-2, 6-4.

Hy managed breaks in the third and fifth games of the second set, but finally succumbed.

Gigi Fernandez and Zina Garrison Jackson defeated

Canada's Jill Hetherington and Rene Simpson-Alter in the doubles 6-1, 7-6 (7-3).

Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain took the first singles beating Argentina's Patricia Tarabini 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 6-2.

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario followed with the second singles win over Florentia Labat 6-1, 6-4.

And the Spanish doubles team Marie Angelines Mintolio and Neus Avila beat Labat and Bettina Folco-Villola 6-1, 6-4.

Katerina Maleeva trounced Romana Tedjakusuma 6-2, 6-1, and sister Magdalena Maleeva swept past Yayuk Basuki 6-3, 6-3 to lead Bulgaria past Indonesia.

Bulgaria's doubles team of Lubomira Bacheva and Svetlana Krivencheva swept past Tedjakusuma and Natalia Sotirino 6-1, 6-3.

Petra Ritter defeated Rachel McQuillan 6-4, 6-1, and Judith Wiesner beat Kristine Radford 6-0, 6-3 to give Austria an unbeatable 2-0 lead over Australia.

Australia came back in the doubles with Elizabeth Smylie and Rebecca Stubbs to salvage one point in the doubles over Sylvia Plischke and Barbara Schett.

Tax official quits over World Cup team's duty-free spree

BRASILIA (AFP) — Brazil's top tax official quit in a huff Thursday after higher-ups allowed the country's returning World Cup victors to bring home tonnes of merchandise duty-free.

The 30-member football team came home to a hero's welcome Tuesday night, hailed by millions of delirious Brazilians for capturing the World Cup trophy for an unprecedented fourth time.

But the Rio's Galeao international airport, the team was held up for two hours as customs officials argued with the players over 17 tonnes of goods valued at \$1.4 million that they wanted to bring in.

According to press reports, the players threatened to return medals given to them by President Itamar Franco and boycott a waiting victory parade if their luggage was not let through.

The negotiations finally ended with an order from higher-ups to let the team, coaches and other members of the Brazilian delegation to let them through, according to the reports.

Almost immediately, Secretary of International

Revenue Osiris Lopes Filho resigned in protest, saying Finance Minister Rubens Ricuperio's decision to let the luggage in had stripped him of his authority.

Although Ricuperio was reported to have given the order, an adviser to the finance minister said Thursday the source of the order was not known and an investigation had been opened into the affair.

A judge in the state of Minas Gerais, Ronaldo Tava, and a Rio lawyer, Jorge Beja, nevertheless said they

would file suit to force Ricuperio to reimburse the treasury for the unpaid duties on the \$1.4 million in goods.

Romario, star of the Brazilian team, denied that threats had been made by team members and said they had only brought in "personal items and gifts."

"We were already in the firetrucks to begin the parade when they announced that the luggage would be released the following morning, and that's why we complained, but without threats," he said.

Czech tennis finds freedom has price

PRAGUE (R) — The fall of communism may have brought new opportunities to the Czech Republic, but as one of the world's top tennis nations is learning, newfound liberties come at a price.

"Democracy in sport has some negatives," says Frantisek Zlesak, sports director of the Czech Tennis Association (CTA). "Tennis in the Czech Republic will have to become more businesslike."

"The system we have used has been very good, but there have been changes in the country that need to be reflected in our tennis system. We just don't have as much money to spend."

Zlesak was speaking this week as the Czech capital hosted an elite field of eight of the world's top-ranked women players, including French Open winner Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez.

While the players fought it out on court, the upper echelons of Czech tennis were taking stock of the sport's post-communist future.

The task at hand is daunting: Replacing a state-supported tennis programme that over the past 25 years has produced the likes of Martina Navratilova, Ivan Lendl, Helena Sukova, Hana Mandlikova and Jana Novotna.

Communist support brought Czech players 35 Grand Slam titles, three Olympic medals and wins in the Davis and Federation Cups.

But Czech tennis is now learning that money rules.

Unlike other former Soviet bloc countries, financial backing was rarely a problem for the sport here before communism fell in 1989.

While many Eastern bloc governments saw tennis as a decadent Western sport and gave it little or no support, the Czech authorities funded the game as part of its Olympic programme.

"Tennis was never interrupted by the system. It was never banned here or seen as an elite sport like it was in East Germany," Zlesak said.

"Before we chose the right tournaments for juniors and the best-suited coaches," he

said. "We used to plan their development very carefully. And it worked."

"Now they don't always choose the right tournaments or they start playing professionally too early."

"Some 14 and 15-year-olds here already have sponsors and if you have money, you can choose the tournaments and coaches you want."

Zlesak's thoughts were echoed by last year's Wimbledon finalist Jana Novotna.

"For juniors here now, it is just money, money, money. They don't really understand what competing for a Grand Slam title really means."

"I think there's a big hole in the tennis ranks here. We still have good players, but they leave as soon as they learn the game," she said.

In communist Czechoslovakia, controls over travel documents and foreign work permits regulated the number of coaches leaving the country. Zlesak said this kept the "brain drain" on coaching to a minimum.

"After money, the most serious problem we face is with coaching. Before there was a limit to the number of coaches who could go abroad but now everyone is free to go. And they do because it can be much more lucrative for them."

And while top Czech trainers Tomas Smid, Jan Kodes and the former coach of Steffi Graf, Pavel Slozil have returned to the country, more top quality coaching will be needed if the Czech republic is to continue as a dominant force.

Ironically, life under communist rule may have given Czech players a mental edge over their opponents, says Pavel Korda, coach of the team that won the 1980 Davis Cup and father of world number 13 Petr Korda.

"As a nation we learned to overcome and work in very inventive ways and this has followed us onto the courts," he said.

Now, Korda said with a smile, the Czechs may have to look elsewhere for inspiration.

"Sometimes I joke with people and tell them it's Czech beer that makes our players so good."



Ivan Lendl



Martina Navratilova



Hana Mandlikova



Helena Sukova

Much work remains for Atlanta's 1996 Olympic organising committee

ATLANTA (AP) — With just two years remaining before the torch is lit to start the Atlanta Olympics, organisers are sprinting to raise enough money to stage the games.

Top officials of the Atlanta Games marked the two year milestone Tuesday in a fitting fashion: Announcing the latest big-money Olympic sponsor.

Atlanta-based Delta Airlines signed on as a "partner" sponsor, which usually is valued at about \$40 million in cash and services.

The bulk of Delta's contributions — about two-thirds — will be in travel and cargo services. The carrier's cash outlay, which will be diverted from Delta's current advertising budget, will be less than \$10 million, according to Delta chairman Ronald W. Allen.

"Delta has been at our side from the very start of our efforts to get the bid," said Billy Payne, president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG).

They flew countless Olympic officials to Atlanta before the site decision on the 1996 games was made, and I've personally flown more than a million miles (1.6 million kilometres) with Delta since beginning my Olympic work."

Signing up the final sponsors and negotiating remaining international television rights contracts are among the top priorities as ACOG enters the final stretch of preparations.

"It's a significant challenge," said Arthur M. Gignilliat Jr., a member of the Metropolitan Atlanta Olympic Games Authority, a civic panel that is overseeing ACOG's preparations.

"The closer you're involved with the Olympics, the shorter that two-year time span seems to become," Gignilliat said.

Payne said the shrinking calendar poses no cause for alarm, however, because he believes preparations are right on schedule.

"I think there's excitement, not urgency to it," Payne said of the two-year milestone. "Urgency is a factor of being behind schedule. And we are not, nor have we ever been."

The planning committee still needs to raise about 45 per cent of a \$1.58 billion budget that has scant room for error. About one-third of that outstanding figure is budgeted to come from ticket sales, with the remainder mainly from sponsorships, TV contracts and merchandise sales.

ACOG recently announced ticket prices, which will average about \$40 apiece. Tickets go on sale next year.

ACOG's ability to stage the games by relying solely on private funding sources, such as corporate sponsorships and licensing fees, has caused gnashing of teeth from the time Atlanta was awarded the games. Most Olympics are financed with significant government assistance.

Most recently, International Olympic Committee (IOC) Vice President Richard Pound fretted over ACOG's

lack of a safety net, saying plans for the games could be forced to scale back if funding falls short.

"Thank Goodness we're dealing with that situation in the United States, where the private sector is prepared currently and in fact has historically supported the Olympic movement," Payne said.

Olympic officials already have signed their biggest TV contract, a record \$456 million deal with the NBC network for U.S. rights. A lucrative deal for European rights also has been signed, but TV contracts for Japan, Australia and several smaller markets are incomplete.

One area where ACOG is making visible progress is in construction, where in recent weeks ground has been broken for the aquatics, equestrian and field hockey venues. Construction is to begin later this year for the archery, cycling, preliminary basketball shooting and rowing facilities.

The biggest projects, the 65,000-seat Olympic stadium and the Olympic village to house athletes, have been under construction since last year.

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Charlesimo
in Japan

Nov. 5, in the return of the
Motta as coach of the Man-
Dallas for its first seven
ons, returns to the beach
his season with 856 cars
ous, fourth in league ho-

The first game between the
defending champion Houston
Knicks, who lost the finals in
even games, Jan. 19, at
Houston.

A rematch between the
analysts a month later in a
nationally televised Sunday
afternoon game at New
York.

A Christmas day double-
header, which kicks off a
six-game national television
package. Seattle is at Den-
ver in the opener, a rematch of
last season's first-round play-
off series, won by the Jay-
Chicago in the second game
series.

The 45th All-Star game
scheduled for Feb. 12 in
Phoenix.

San Antonio at Phi-
delphia, March 10, at the
am, the Spurs, and the
The teams meet again
days later at San Antonio
A regular-season-ending
doubleheader, Sunday, April

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assure for the unpaid dues
the \$1.4 million in bonds.

Romano, star of the Brazil
team, denied that threat
been made by team
members and said they had
brought in "personal
ins and guts."

"We were already in the
struck to begin the parade
en they announced that
luggages would be re-
sed the following morning
and that's why we com-
ained, but without
eats," he said.

as price



Russia's Ugrumov crosses the finish line Thursday to win the 18th stage of the Tour de France (AFP photo)

Russia's Ugrumov becomes new Tour de France hero

MORZINE AVORIAZ, France (AP) — The Tour de France was celebrating a new hero Friday after Russia's Piotr Ugrumov crushed Miguel Indurain in a 47km time trial, and won his second stage in as many days.

Ugrumov produced a superhuman performance to win the rainy 19th stage, two days before the 1994 race comes to an end on the Champs Elysees, with Indurain as the almost certain victor.

But the last few days have been completely dominated by the 33-year-old Latvian-born Russian, who is riding in only his second tour.

Ugrumov had been narrowly denied victory in Wednesday's ruthless Alpine stage, losing a last-minute sprint with breakaway com-

panion Nelson Rodriguez of Colombia. Undaunted, he broke away for a superb solo victory on Thursday's 18th stage to Cluses.

Friday's win was even more heroic, relegating time trial specialist Indurain to third place, more than three minutes adrift.

However, Indurain knew that his fourth consecutive tour victory was not in doubt and decided not to push himself to hard when it became clear he was not going to win the stage.

"I didn't give everything I had," he admitted. "I didn't want to take any risks."

Second place went to Marco Pantani, who has also shown his mettle this week — an agonising fall on Wednesday almost made him abandon but he re-mounted and

shot back to the front.

The Italian finished the race against the clock one and a half minutes behind the winner.

Ugrumov's stunning performance in 72 hours on the tour has seen him leapfrog from ninth position, and more than 14min 8sec behind Indurain, to second place and 5min 39sec behind.

He is likely to stay second on Sunday in Paris.

Pantani is third overall at 7:19, followed by French Festina teammate Luc Leblanc (10:03) and Richard Virenque, the big loser of the day, who slipped from second to fifth (10:10).

In trouble right from the start, Virenque burst into tears soon after crossing the line.

Al Jazireh international women's basketball tourney kicks off today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Jazireh's international women's basketball tournament — an exceptional week-long sporting event grouping top five regional women's teams — begins today at the Sports Palace under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Syria's Al Jala', Lebanon's Homentmen, a select team from the occupied territories, in addition to a young promising team — Kefalovryos of Cyprus — will be competing for the title alongside Jordan's 1993 champions — Al Jazireh — as rivalry is expected to be quite tough with the participating teams all having a good record and reputation.

A quick review of the preparedness and experience of the competitors shows Lebanon's Homentmen to be the top contenders for the title.

With six players on the Lebanese national team, Homentmen are now considered one of the Arab World's top teams. Their new recruit Emma Beglarian at an astonishing height of 1.95 will surely give much impetus to their already mighty lineup trained by Lebanese national team coach Hagop Khacharian.

Last year they clinched the Lebanon Cup, and were recently crowned league champions after defeating rivals Antranik Club 74-43, thus staging a powerful comeback after a decade-long interrup-

tion of regular competitions due to the civil war.

The Lebanese team boasts an astonishing record of winning their country's championship from 1956-1975, losing the title only once in 1968!

The team includes Gassia and Vivian Sarkissian, Aline Tehalian, Taline Papazian, Mireille Ajemian and Vartouh Markarian, a coherent strong lineup together with teammates Karineh Khoro-zian, Seta Vasilian, Anahid Batmanian, Sanan Markarian, and Sophia Zaroukian who last played in Jordan in July 1992 when they were hosted by Jordanian counterparts Homentmen Amman. During their visit they crushed Al Jazireh — then the Kingdom's third team — 80-29, and defeated then champions Al Orthodoxi 78-50, and their hosts 56-16.

"We have a fair idea about the competing teams, and we are quite hopeful of achieving a very good result," a confident Khacharian asserted. "We are just out of our country's championship and have been training hard for the past three months," he added.

Al Jala' are Syria's second ranked team this year after losing the title to Al Horiyyeh this season.

During friendly matches in Aleppo earlier this year, Al Jala' beat Al Jazireh twice with a margin of 20 points.

The Cypriot team — Kefalovryos — is relatively the most inexperienced team, making their first regional appearance.

The club, which was originally based in the now Turkish-held town of Kythrea in northern Cyprus, is now based in the southeastern towns of Paralimni and Larnaca.

While the club's women's basketball team was only formed two years ago and finished fifth among eight competing teams in the first division, their women's handball team has been Cyprus' champions for the past three years, with eight players being members of the Cypriot national team.

Despite their handball team's competitions in the European Cup, Al Jazireh's tournament will be their basketball team's first competition abroad.

Hosts Al Jazireh have been preparing for the tournament for some time. However, they recently suffered a setback when they lost their newly-won title to former champions Al Orthodoxi when they abruptly pulled out of the Kingdom's women's competition citing technical irregularities and an offhand approach by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Al Jazireh had first joined the women's competition in 1991 finishing last alongside Al Orthodoxi, Al Ahli, and Homentmen who staged a comeback of women's basketball in the 1989-1990 season after an interruption of competitions for more than six years.

In 1992 Al Jazireh took third place from Homentmen, and in 1993 defied expectations by clinching the title away from Al Orthodoxi.

Since the JBF only has one yearly championship which is usually concluded in two or three weeks, the few women's teams usually have to host a team to give players an incentive and keep them busy throughout the season.

Therefore Al Jazireh's women's championship has undoubtedly again brought a welcome change to the women's basketball arena in the Kingdom as the last foreign teams to compete in Jordan were Sariyet Ramallah and Al Catholic of Bethlehem hosted by Al Jazireh, and Lebanon's Homentmen who were hosted by their Jordanian counterparts — Homentmen Amman in the summer of 1992.

Al Jazireh had set high hopes in for the upcoming season as they commenced their season early this year when they played a series of matches in Aleppo, Syria.

Their ambitious team has been strengthened by the recruitment of two pivotal players, Jumana Salti and Rana Hussein, who alongside Tala Al Mauje, Suhair Makusi, Hala Muheisen and the rest of the ambitious team are expected to give it a hard fight for an advanced position in their tournament.

The JBF and the women's basketball committee now

GOODWILL GAMES Start of swimming delayed one day

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Swimming, the showcase event of Saturday's opening day of the Goodwill Games, will be pushed back one day because of renovation delays at the Ska indoor swimming pool, officials said Friday.

A technical committee decided Friday to hold the event in two sessions on Sunday. It had been set to begin Saturday and end Sunday. Officials said all of the events would be contested as scheduled.

Goodwill Games President Jack Kelly said an inspection of the pool early Friday showed a troublesome filtration system was still pumping out murky brown water as it has done for several days.

"There's no way they could swim in the pool the way it currently is," said Charlie Snyder, spokesman for the U.S. team, "the problem is they put charcoal directly into the filter rather than in a cloth sack and then into the filter."

"Two days ago when I went to the pool for the first time the water was a brown-back colour, this time it was green. The first time you could see the black lines on

the bottom, today you couldn't," Snyder added.

The delay is an embarrassment to Goodwill officials. Critics have suggested the games, the first major sports event in post-Soviet Russia, would be an organisational disaster. They have also questioned large spending on the event in a city deep in economic problems.

"It's not something that would mean changing the quality of the swim competition," Kelly said. "We have a very big programme and that (change in the swim schedule) could be accommodated."

Though many of the venues for the games have undergone extensive rehabs, the Ska pool has probably been the biggest reclamation project in a city well-worn by years of neglect.

Kelly said water tests showed the pool was safe, but he said holding competition in a pool with brown water would look bad on television.

"We want to make sure the aesthetics are what we want," Kelly said. "They (St. Petersburg organisers) want to portray this is a place where standards are like everywhere else."

Abu Samra wins National Rally

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hassan Abu Samra and co-driver Khalidoun Al Nasser Friday won the two-day National Rally, organised by the Petra Systems/Bull Computers, according to provisional results released Friday evening shortly after the two-stage event finished.

Abu Samra, driving a Daihatsu Charmant SPL, was followed in second place by Mohammad Al Daoud and co-driver Khaled Zakaria, in a Ford Fiesta XR2i.

The third place went to Ammar Hijazi and co-driver Khaled Hina in a V.W. Golf.

Only nine cars of the 20 that started the rally got through the finish line.

Although 15 cars finished the first stage of the rally, only 14 started the second

stage after the withdrawal of Bashar Bustami and his co-driver Malek Hariri due to mechanical problems.

Mechanical failures also caused the withdrawal of five other competitors: Amjad Farah and co-driver Faisal Sadaoun who led leg 1, Edward Karyakos and co-driver Fawzi Shuqair, Bishara Quz'or and co-driver Burhan Abu Qorra, Saleh Al Baha and co-driver Nabil Kurdi, and Mohammad Juma and co-driver Emad Juma.

First round casualties included Hassan Tabaa and co-driver Alaa Haddad, George Shamoun and Ahmad Shaqdeh, Salah Subeimat and Jihad Hakej, Islam Shari'a and Feras Amer as well as Mohammad Al Deiri and Amjad Al Suyouf.

Derby winner Erhaab on retrieval mission

LONDON (R) — Erhaab, dazzling in the Derby but undone by older horses in the Eclipse Stakes, seeks to restore his reputation Saturday.

The colt is 4-1 favourite for Ascot's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, the European mid-summer highlight.

Erhaab, ridden by Willie Carson, produced one of the finest finishing bursts for many years to win the Epsom Derby in June.

But the shorter 10-furlong (2-km) trip of the Eclipse Stakes caught him out against the five-year-old Ezzoud and last year's St. Leger winner Boh's Return.

Bookmakers William Hill had Erhaab at 7-2 earlier in the week but then eased the John Dunlop-trained colt half a point to 4-1.

"There have been one or two bad vibes about so we've decided to push him out in the betting," said spokesman David Hood.

But Dunlop spokesman Marcus Hosgood said: "Erhaab worked well on Tuesday morning and everybody was happy."

Ezzoud (8-1) and Boh's Return (6-1), first and second in the Eclipse Stakes ahead of Erhaab, take issue again over Saturday's two furlongs (500 metres) longer trip and both hold realistic chances.

Ezzoud is a hit of a character but on his day is capable of hitting the heights. Jockey Walter Swinburn, given the choice of partnering Ezzoud or talented French Petit Loup (10-1), has plumped for Ezzoud.

Both horses are owned by Maktoom Al Maktoom, whose brother Hamdan owns Erhaab and livesy outsider Wagon Master (16-1), although the latter would be happier on an easier surface.

Emphasising Arab influence, the other Maktoom brother, Sheikh Mohammed, plans to run 10-1 chance Foyer and King's Theatre (20-1), runner-up in the Epsom and Irish Derbys.

Trainer Henry Cecil will wait until the last possible moment before deciding whether to run King's Theatre, but a stable spokesman said: "It looks like he will run, but it will depend on the ground."

Foyer, who almost fell in the Epsom Derby, unshipping Willie Ryan, bounced back to win at last month's Royal Ascot meeting.

Sheikh Mohammed has won the race twice previously with Belmez in 1990 and Opera House last year.

The Arabs could, however, be confounded by the Japanese in the shape of last year's runner-up White Muzzle (5-1).

At the request of the horse's Japanese owners, the country's champion jockey Yutaka Take rides white Muzzle at the expense of regular partner John Reid.

Take, 25, is a four times champion of Japan and has ridden successfully in France and the United States. But this will be his first experience of British racing and in an event of this importance he faces a tall order.

Like Ezzoud, French-trained Apple Tree is an enigma but he has done nothing wrong in his last two races, winning Epsom's Coronation Cup and another top group one race at Saint-Cloud. Bookmakers make him the 9-2 second favourite.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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♥ 8 8 2
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ A 4 3

EAST
♠ Void
♥ 7 5 4
♦ Q J 9 8 5 2
♣ 10 8 6 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 9 8 7 6 4
♥ A
♦ Void
♣ Q J 9 8 7

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass 1 ♠ 4 ♠ Pass
5 NT Dbl 6 ♣ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♣

Corporate America almost got bested by Congress in their third annual challenge match. It was only on the last board that the business big shots, including four players with major tournament successes to their credit, picked up a game swing to take out victory by the margin of 7 International Match Points.

Spearsheading a frontal assault on

Don King pleads innocent to wire fraud

NEW YORK (AP) — Or-investigated boxing promoter Don King declared in a packed federal courtroom Thursday that he was "completely innocent" of wire fraud charges.

"Not guilty," King proclaimed loudly at an arraignment before magistrate Nina Gershon, who set bail at \$250,000. King signed a personal recognisance bond.

"I'm completely innocent," King said of his most recent encounter with the federal government in a career marked by investigations and litigation.

"I believe in the American system of justice and I will be cleared," King said outside the courtroom. "I've done nothing to warrant this action."

Sarah Chapman, the prosecutor, said she could not comment beyond what was contained in the indictment.

King was indicted July 14 on nine counts of wire fraud. He is accused of filing false documents with Lloyds of London in order to collect \$350,000 worth of training expenses after a fight between Julio Cesar Chavez, the WBC super lightweight champion, and Harold Brazier was cancelled in June 1991. Chavez was cut on the nose eight days before the

match.

If convicted, King faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count.

Gershon said King cannot travel outside the United States without permission.

A pre-trial conference before judge Lawrence McKenna was scheduled for next Tuesday. Peter Fleming, King's attorney, said his client would not attend.

King appeared in court at 9:47 a.m., wearing a grey suit, white shirt and red, grey and green tie. The grey in the tie matched the grey in his hair, which was standing tall, as usual.

While waiting for the proceedings to begin at shortly after 10:30 a.m., King passed time by facing the jury box and smiling broadly. Seated in the box was an artist sketching King's likeness.

Upon leaving the courthouse, King was confronted with a battery of microphones, television cameras and still photographers.

He again proclaimed his innocence, then ended the interview by saying, "only in America."

One of King's most quoted remarks has been, "I think I'm destined to be investigated until I die."

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STEEL MAGNOLIAS		Nabila Obeid and Farouk Al Fishawi		CONCORD "1"		JASHWA TREE		Today & Everyday		Present their play:	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Unveiling The Secrets		CRUSH		Doff Land Green		Abu Awwad in social comedy		WHAT A PLACE!	
		Arabic		GET AWAY		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30		"PUNCTURED BAG"		(Salam Ya 'Salam)	
		Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45		CONCORD "2"						Daily at 8:30 p.m.	
				SILENCE OF THE LAMPS						The theatre is closed on Tue days.	
				Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30							

NEWS IN BRIEF

Doctors report epidemics in northern Iraq

ZAKHO (AFP) — Hundreds of cases of typhoid and diarrhoea have been reported among children in northern Iraq in recent weeks, doctors have said. The outbreak was caused by cuts in electricity supplies which led to a lack of fresh water, said Dr. Heind Cherralla of Zakho hospital. He said he was treating 100 cases a week, whereas several weeks ago there were only about 20 cases a week. "Most of the affected patients are children," he said. Dohuk province has been without power since June 20, after Turkey cut off electricity supplies, making it impossible to draw water from generator-driven wells. Some districts of the town of Dohuk have been without water for 10 days, the city's governor said.

Ciller: Kurds have brainwashed West

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, rejecting Western concern over human rights in Turkey, said in an interview published on Friday that Kurdish separatists had brainwashed Washington and European governments. Her comments were issued as she met French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, who has voiced concern over the arrest of Kurdish parliamentarians on charges carrying the death penalty. "Beware of disinformation. The PKK (Kurdish Labour Party) is killing citizens of Kurdish origin in south-east Anatolia. In fighting against the PKK, I am protecting them," Ms. Ciller told the conservative daily Le Figaro. "The separatists have changed strategy. Banned from Germany, they have moved to Greece... they will sell their ideas across the world, in the United States and in Europe."

Bomb found by fuel line to U.S.-Turkish base

ANKARA (R) — A time bomb buried by a pipeline carrying aviation fuel to a southern Turkish military base used by U.S. planes was defused on Friday with rust two minutes to spare, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. The 10-kg bomb was planted near a pipeline taking the aircraft fuel from Mediterranean oil terminals to the joint Turkish-U.S. base in Incirlik, the agency said.

France praises Moroccan amnesty

PARIS (R) — France on Friday welcomed Moroccan King Hassan's amnesty for 424 prisoners, most of them political opponents, as a sign of respect for human rights. French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said: "France is delighted at this administrative pardon which restores freedom and full rights to these prisoners. This measure was taken in respect of universally recognised human rights which are guaranteed in the Moroccan constitution." France and Morocco had long been at odds over the issue of political prisoners, although they warmed last year after the election of a conservative Gaullist-led government in Paris. The prisoners freed on Thursday included Islamic activists, Marxist-Leninists, students, trade unionists, two cartoonists, and people jailed for involvement in riots, a spokesman for Morocco's Human Rights Association (AMDH) said.

Iran welcomes joint action with Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Iran welcomes cooperation with Turkey in tackling separatist Kurds and dissident Iranians, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a Turkish newspaper. "We are ready to go as far as Turkey is ready to go and cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of security," Mr. Rafsanjani said in an interview with the Turkish Daily News published on Friday ahead of Turkish President Suleiman Demirel's visit to Iran on July 25-27. "We believe Turkey and Iran should not allow antagonistic elements to use the territory of one country to attack the territory of the other. If there is anything that jeopardises the security of the region the two countries should cooperate to destroy it."

100 killed in Iran fight against drugs

TEHRAN (AFP) — One hundred members of the security forces were killed and 500 others wounded in clashes with armed drug traffickers in the 12 months up to March 1994, Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said Friday. Speaking before the Friday prayers at Tehran University, Mr. Besharati added 90,200 kilograms of various drugs had been seized in the same period. He did not say how many traffickers had been killed or wounded in the confrontations.

Lebanon receives U.S. military vehicles

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's army on Friday received a shipment of U.S.-made armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and military trucks, military sources said. They said the shipment, which included 106 M113 APCs and 12 trucks, was part of a deal by which the United States agreed to sell Lebanon APCs, trucks and jeeps from one of its closed military bases in Germany at a symbolic price.

Saudi man beheaded for rape

JEDDAH (AFP) — A Saudi man was beheaded here Friday for raping a five-year-old girl to death, Saudi state television reported, quoting an interior ministry statement. It said Abdullah Ghanem, 30, had kidnapped the girl and "raped her until she died" before disposing of the body in an abandoned house. The execution raised to 16 the number of people beheaded in Saudi Arabia this year for various crimes including drug trafficking, according to official figures.

Freed hostages arrive in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Two Chinese and seven of eight Pakistani hostages arrived here Friday from Kabul, where they were released after being held for more than a year by an Afghan warlord. Senior Pakistani and Chinese officials were at the airport for an emotional meeting with the hostages, kidnapped by Afghan guerrilla commander "Rocky" Mullah Abdul Salam since June last year. An eighth Pakistani hostage stayed in Kabul to rejoin relatives. Pakistani Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar, at the airport along with Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali, said no ransom had been paid and the matter had been settled "amicably."

Sudan declares unilateral ceasefire

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese government has declared a unilateral ceasefire for Saturday in its war with southern rebels following an appeal by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, the president's official said in a statement. The communique, read out by government spokesman Abdul Basit Sabdarat on Friday, said the ceasefire move was an overture aimed to ensure the success of the current round of peace talks in the Kenyan capital. Government forces in southern Sudan have been ordered to stop fighting from noon on Saturday (1000 GMT), and to open fire only in self-defence, the statement said. The move aimed to provide proof of the government's seriousness over the peace talks, said the statement, adding that the government was willing to take the risk even though the southern rebels had used past truces to plant mine fields.

U.S. asks Israel to join Haiti force

TEL AVIV (AP) — The United States has asked Israel to join a multinational peacekeeping force envisaged in Haiti once the army-backed regime there is overthrown, an official said Friday. The disclosure came as the United States was reported considering an invasion to try and restore democratic rule in the Caribbean island nation.



HUMAN TRAGEDY: A Rwandan refugee works his way through dozens of bodies lying on the side of the road north of Goma, Zaire. Tens of thousands of Rwandans left refugee camps near Goma on Friday to escape from a raging cholera epidemic now killing thousands of people (see page 5) (AFP photo)

Iraq says it is abiding by ceasefire terms

TOKYO (Agencies) — The United Nations should recognise Iraq is complying with terms imposed at the end of the Gulf war and move to lift oil sanctions, and Iraqi envoy was quoted as saying in Japan on Friday. "Iraq is faithfully meeting the U.N. terms and has been cooperative in dismantling weapons of mass destruction," special envoy Wissam Al Zahawi was quoted as saying by a Japanese Foreign Ministry official.

Mr. Zahawi, promoting Iraq's case for lifting of the U.N. embargo on Iraqi oil exports, met Foreign Ministry officials on the last leg of a tour that also took him to Sweden and Finland. Earlier this week, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said Washington was blocking any consideration of lifting oil sanctions against Iraq for reasons that had little to do with the 1991 U.N. ceasefire resolution linking Iraq exports to arms compliance.

A divided U.N. Security Council will seriously consider lifting sanctions against Iraq after U.N. officials set up a long-term monitoring programme, the last key project in destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. The U.N. Special Commission in charge of disarmament does not expect to complete its work until about March 1995.

Japanese officials said unconditional compliance was necessary before lifting the oil embargo, the official said. Japan, which is not on the U.N. Security Council, is one of the world's largest oil importers, with nearly 90 per cent of its crude oil intake

coming from the Middle East.

It was importing about 115,000 barrels per day of Iraqi crude oil before Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs bureau chief, Takaya Suo, met Mr. Zahawi.

Mr. Suo told Mr. Zahawi that Iraq needed to comply unconditionally with all the U.N. resolutions, including Iraq's recognition of its border with Kuwait and Kuwaiti sovereignty as well as releasing Kuwaiti prisoners.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sabah said Wednesday Baghdad welcomed the positive attitude by several U.N. Security Council countries towards lifting the sanctions against Iraq and said the United States was increasingly iso-

lated.

Quoted by the official agency INA, he said several countries had "stressed Iraq's application of U.N. resolutions" in a bid to get the sanctions lifted.

In a report received in Nicosia highlighted the position of Russia, China, France, Spain, Brazil and Nigeria "which recognise that Baghdad is conforming to the demands of Resolution 687 and call for the lifting of the oil embargo."

"The United States which persists in wanting to contradict the council's standing are increasingly isolated," he said, adding that Washington was "acting only in its only political interests."

The sanctions were automatically kept in place on Monday after the 15 members of the Security Council failed to reach a unanimous decision on whether they should be lifted.

Obscure group indirectly claims attacks in L. America

SIDON (Agencies) — A group calling itself Ansarallah, or partisans of God, indirectly claimed responsibility Friday for the Buenos Aires bombing of a Jewish community group that killed 42 people.

In a statement distributed in this southern Lebanese port city, the group also indirectly claimed it blew up a plane over Panama on Tuesday, killing 21 people, most of them Jewish businessmen.

"Suicide martyr squads have been formed to confront and combat Zionism everywhere. The Argentina and Panama operations are evidence of this continuing confrontation," the typewritten, Arabic-language statement said.

It was the first claim of responsibility made in the Middle East since Monday's bombing of the headquarters of the Jewish community organisations in the Argentine capital. In addition to the 42 people killed, 206 were injured and 65 missing.

The Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility for bombing the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires March 17, 1992. At least 28 people were

killed and more than 200 hurt.

That bombing was a retaliation for an Israeli helicopter ambush in which Hizbollah leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi was killed along with his wife and five-year-old son in South Lebanon a month earlier.

Hizbollah leaders have vowed revenge for an Israeli air raid on a Hizbollah training base that killed up to 50 people in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley June 2. Some of their statements suggested the revenge could be patterned after the 1992 Buenos Aires Israeli embassy bombing.

In Buenos Aires an estimated 150,000 demonstrators took to the streets to protest the latest bombings, as more bodies were pulled from the rubble bringing the official death toll to 46.

The crowd gathered Thursday in silent mourning at the Dos Congresses plaza car-

rying banners in Spanish and Hebrew and photographs of those killed in Monday's explosion at the seven-storey headquarters of the Jewish Mutual Association.

Public transportation, banks and businesses shut down so that workers could participate in the march, which was also attended by President Carlos Menem, the Israeli ambassador and Jewish leaders.

Police estimated the crowd at about 150,000. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in a broadcast message, called the attack "the most serious since the end of World War II," while Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called on Argentina to step up efforts to find the bombers.

Mr. Menem acknowledged it would be difficult to collect hard evidence pointing to who was behind the attack but said he believed "the intelligence services would get positive results soon."

Omani envoy in Algeria over missing diplomat

DUBAI (Agencies) — An Omani envoy has arrived in Algeria for talks with authorities on efforts to find Omani ambassador who disappeared in the country last week with a Yemeni ambassador.

The Omani News Agency (ONA) said on Friday Haytham Ben Tareq Al Said, a Foreign Ministry envoy, arrived on Thursday in Algiers with a delegation to strengthen efforts to find Hilal Ben Salem Al Siyabi.

Al Siyabi and Yemen's Ambassador Ali Askar, travelling with a Moroccan driver and a Yemeni guest, went missing last Friday while on a trip to a rural beauty spot.

Their burnt-out car was found in the Khemis Al Kechua area, 30 kilometres southeast of Algiers. The route passes through an area notorious for militant attacks.

Gulf news agencies on Friday quoted a Yemeni Foreign Ministry spokesman as telling Yemen's news agency SABA that Sanaa was concerned about diplomat and talks were continuing by telephone with Algerian authorities to try to find him.

The spokesman called on Algeria to uncover the circumstances of the envoys' disappearance and find those responsible.

He expressed Yemen's "deep anxiety" over the disappearance of Ambassador Askar, Mohammad Qassem Al Thuri, whom he described as a member of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) politburo, and Omani Ambassador Siyabi.

The U.S. State Department has warned Algeria to avoid travel to Algeria and has advised those already there to depart if they lack "effective protection."

The travel warning issued Wednesday also urges Americans residing in Algeria to "exercise maximum caution and to reevaluate their personal security practices."

"Recent attacks against foreigners, coupled with increased press attention to the United States indicate that the level of risk in Algeria has increased not only for foreigners in general, but for Americans and American facilities as well," said the statement.

In France, Algerian illegal immigrants, including two alleged supporters of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, have been arrested, police said.

The arrests were the result of a two-pronged police operation in a neighbourhood near the town of Perpignan. According to police, three people who entered France with false visas were arrested Thursday.

On Friday morning, three others without legal documents were arrested during a routine identity check.

The police said two of those arrested, whose identities were not given, "appear to be supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front."

COLUMN

China's oldest woman dies

BEIJING (AFP) — China's oldest woman, Kong Yin, has died at the ripe old age of 123, leaving vacant the title of the nation's "longevity queen," the China Daily reported Friday. Kong, who was born in 1871, died last Saturday of pneumonia in her hometown in the southern province of Guangdong, the newspaper said. Ms. Kong, who was married at the age of 15 and had four children, was crowned China's "longevity queen" in October last year, together with "longevity king" Gong Laifu, who is still going at the sprightly age of 131. Ms. Kong and Mr. Gong were crowned after a five-month search sponsored by the China Elderly People Association and an advertising company. Following their "coronations," both centenarians received monthly stipends of 200 yuan (\$23), donated by two tea- and alcohol-producing Chinese firms. The newspaper did not say when a successor to Ms. Kong will be named. Mr. Gong, who lives in the impoverished southwestern province of Guizhou, was born in 1862 and worked from the 19th into the 20th centuries in the fields, subsisting on a staple diet of rice and maize.

Lynx mauls poultry farmer in Sweden

HOERNEFORS, Sweden (AFP) — A poultry farmer checking damage that a lynx had caused to a fence was mauled by the cat and seriously injured, a newspaper said. Neighbours said the lynx had been prowling around the farm for a week and killed six of the farmer's ducks, the Vaesterbottens Folkblad said. Lynxes are protected species in Sweden. They do not generally attack people.

Election hopeful gets a wigging over hairpiece

BANGKOK (AFP) — Three Thai opposition members of parliament have complained that a candidate in an upcoming by-election violated the national election law by having his official picture taken while wearing a hairpiece. The three MPs, Chaovarin Lathasakskiri of the Chart Thai Party, and Panya Sipanya and Kasem Malaisi of the Chart Pattana Party, made the complaint Thursday in a letter to Interior Minister Chaowalit Yongchaiyudh. The trio accused Prang Boonpong of violating Article 22 of Thailand's Election Act, which says candidates may not wear a hat in the photographs they submit with their application to run in an election. The three argued that the definition of "hat" could be "headwear," and that this could include a hairpiece, news reports said. Mr. Prang, who is bald, is a candidate for the House of Representatives in the Aug. 7 by-election in Nakhon Phanom, northeastern Thailand. He is a member of the New Aspiration Party, which is a member of the ruling coalition. Mr. Chaowalit did not immediately rule on the complaint.

N. Zealand to outlaw child sex tours

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's government said Friday it planned to introduce legislation which will outlaw sexual contact — at home as well as abroad — between New Zealanders and children. "Children in other countries should be accorded the same status and protection under our law as exists for New Zealand children," Justice Minister Doug Graham said. Under the new laws, New Zealanders could be brought to trial in their own country for sexual offences committed against children abroad, as well as for organising and promoting "sex tourism" involving children. The legislation comes as a result of media attention and international concern over tourists sexually abusing children in other countries, particularly in Asia. Australia has recently enacted similar legislation, creating extrajurisdictional sexual offences for which Australians can be prosecuted.

Jordanian suspect in New Jersey murder detained

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Authorities have detained a Jordanian suspected of killing his wife in the United States, security sources said Friday.

The sources said Mohammad Ismail Abequa, 40, was detained on Thursday after a several-day manhunt that was prompted by a big hue and cry raised in the U.S. after American lawmakers intervened in the affair.

Mr. Abequa is suspected of killing his wife Nihal 40, on July 3 ahead of a court hearing in the U.S. on custody of their two children Lisa 6, and Sami 3. Mrs. Abequa's body was found three days later on July 6 in their apartment in Parsippany-Troy hills, New Jersey.

American investigators who are following up on the case traced her husband's and two children to Amsterdam from where they took a flight to Amman.

According to local sources, Mr. Abequa, a nationalised American citizen, used his Jordanian passport to enter the Kingdom.

The affair assumed a larger magnitude when three New Jersey lawmakers asked U.S.

President Bill Clinton to ask His Majesty King Hussein to intervene.

King Hussein said during a joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the Royal Court Wednesday that Jordan would do everything it can to help in resolving the case.

"Maybe there is an area in which we can achieve some progress in the future to have an extradition treaty, which we do not have at the moment," the King said, adding that "we will certainly do everything we can to solve this problem in terms of the crime, regardless of whether the crime was committed here or in the United States."

King Hussein and President Clinton are scheduled to meet in Washington next Monday for a summit meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

According to legal experts, the Jordanian government was studying the legal implications of possible extradition, given that the suspect has Jordanian nationality and there is no extradition treaty between Jordan and the United States.

The sensitivity of the issue was highlighted when senior police officials said

they knew nothing of the man being arrested, and that they only know of what they heard from the King during the press conference. The chief of police, Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Al Adwan, was quoted by the New York Times on Friday as confirming the man's arrest.

The Associated Press quoting another Jordanian official as saying that the suspect's mother Samina guided authorities to the suspect's hideout in an old house in Jabal Taj. The report said the man was alone. Another security official said Mr. Abequa had intended to surrender and asked his mother to inform police of his whereabouts, the report added.

The official said that Mr. Abequa was being questioned.

U.S. embassy spokesman told the Jordan Times that the mission had not been officially notified by the government. He gave no further details.

Yahya Abequa, the suspect's brother, denied that he had any knowledge of his brother's arrest.

"I have no information about my brother, and I am really worried about him," he told the Jordan Times.

"I am really sad and started at the same time with the accusations I am bearing about my brother because he was a social and friendly person," he added.

Yahya Abequa, one of Mohammad Abequa's four brothers and three sisters, said that when his brother returned to Jordan he informed him that he was real happy and that he was seeking a job in Amman.

According to the brother, the suspect finished his army service in Amman, worked for a couple of years, then went to the United States in 1985 to work there. He said his brother had been married to Nihal, who was of Turkish origin, for more than eight years.

The murder accusation "is the last thing I would expect to hear about my brother. I don't know the circumstances, but I am sure my brother is innocent," Yahya Abequa said.

The brother denied knowledge of the children's whereabouts. But the New York Times said the children were safe with one of the suspect's sisters in Amman. Gen. Adwan was not available all day Friday to confirm or deny the report.